

DAWN OF THE AUTOBOTS

IDW
#1 • CVR A

SCOTT
STONE

THE TRANSFORMERS FORMERS WINDBLADE



DAWN OF THE AUTOBOTS

WINDBLADE #1

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PREVIOUSLY



THE UNIVERSE NEARLY CAME TO ITS END, BUT CYBERTRON UNITED AND THE DAY WAS SAVED BY THE COMBINED FORCES OF THE AUTOBOTS, DECEPTICONS, AND SOME NEW ARRIVALS.

OPTIMUS PRIME. THE AUTOBOT COMMANDER RETURNS TO FACE A NEW WORLD ORDER.

MEGATRON. THE DECEPTICON LEADER JOINS THE SIDE OF HIS LONGTIME ENEMIES.

WINDBLADE. THE NEWCOMER ARRIVES ON CYBERTRON AND MAKES A PLACE FOR HERSELF.

SIX MONTHS LATER

DAWN'S BREAKING
ON CYBERTRON.

THE STARS FADE AND THE SUN
PEEKS OVER THE HORIZON.

AND *JUST* BEFORE IT'S
LIGHT ENOUGH TO REALLY
MAKE THINGS OUT, I
PRETEND, AS HARD AS I
CAN, THAT I'M *HOME*.

BECAUSE EVERY MOMENT
AFTER... THERE'S NO
DENYING THAT I'M *NOT*.



MY NAME IS
WINDBLADE.

AND THIS IS MY 186TH
CYBERTRONIAN DAWN.



THE LAST CITY ON CYBERTRON IS ACTUALLY THE TITAN **METROPLEX**.

EXTENSIVE **DAMAGE** HAS STOPPED HIM FROM SPEAKING—EXCEPT IN THE **OLDEST LANGUAGE**. THE ONE ONLY CITYSPEAKERS STILL LEARN.

METROPLEX IS THE CITY BUT **I** AM HIS VOICE.

AND WHAT **EXACTLY** ARE YOU TWO TALKING ABOUT?



I'M SORRY, WINDBLADE. HE BARGED IN—

OF COURSE HE DID.

BUT IT'S HIS RIGHT TO. IT'S **HIS** WORLD.



WINDBLADE AND I HAVE IMPORTANT MATTERS TO DISCUSS.

WHY DON'T YOU WATCH THE DOOR... WITH **RATTRAP**?

NO MATTER WHAT WE THINK.

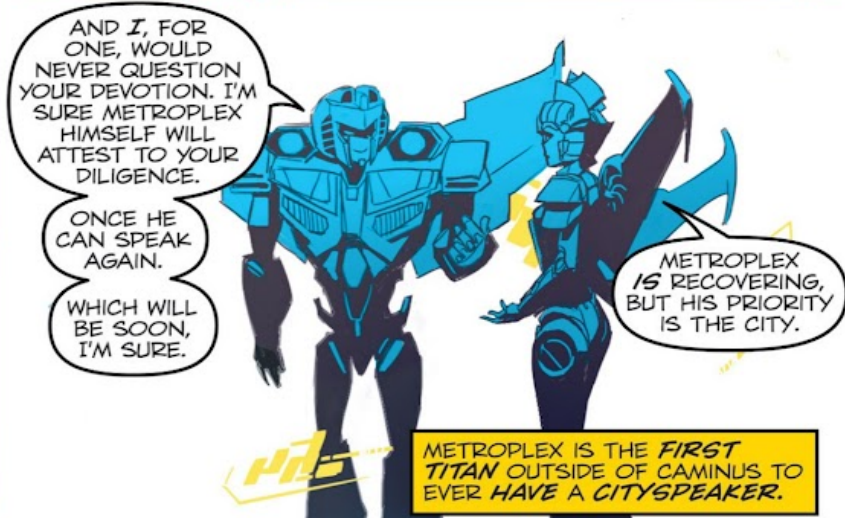


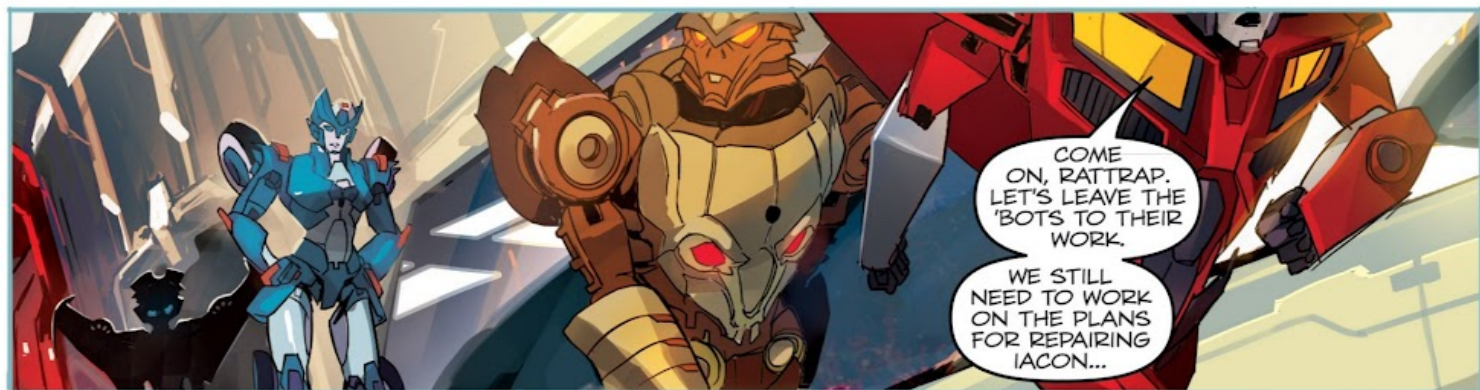
SO... UH.

WHAT'S THE—UH—WHOLE YOU BOTH BEING CALLED "**SHE**" THING ABOUT?



OHH-KKAYYY.





THAT, AND
METROPLEX.

SPEAKING TO A TITAN
IS *ALWAYS* DIFFICULT—
TO AN *INJURED*
ONE EVEN MORE SO.

THEIR THOUGHTS ARE *VAST* AND
THEY SPEAK IN *WEBS OF LIGHT*
THAT EVEN THE BEST CITYSPEAKER
STRUGGLES TO FULLY UNDERSTAND.

TO HAVE SOMETHING SO
GLORIOUS HEAR YOU—
AND TRY SO *HARD* TO
ANSWER—IS SACRED.

METROPLEX.
IT'S *ME*. ARE
YOU HURT?

WIND-VOICE...
TROUBLED.

XA26 VALVE 80%
MAXIMUM PRESSURE.

NO/YES

HURT

DIVERT ENERGON
DRAINAGE, SECTOR 47...

"...AND THE STARS GREW DISTANT
AND LONELY IN THEIR ORBITS."

WHAT

NEED?

THE CITY IS
DARK IN PLACES,
METROPLEX.
YOU'RE LOSING
POWER.

WHAT'S
HAPPENING?
WHY ARE
YOU DARK?

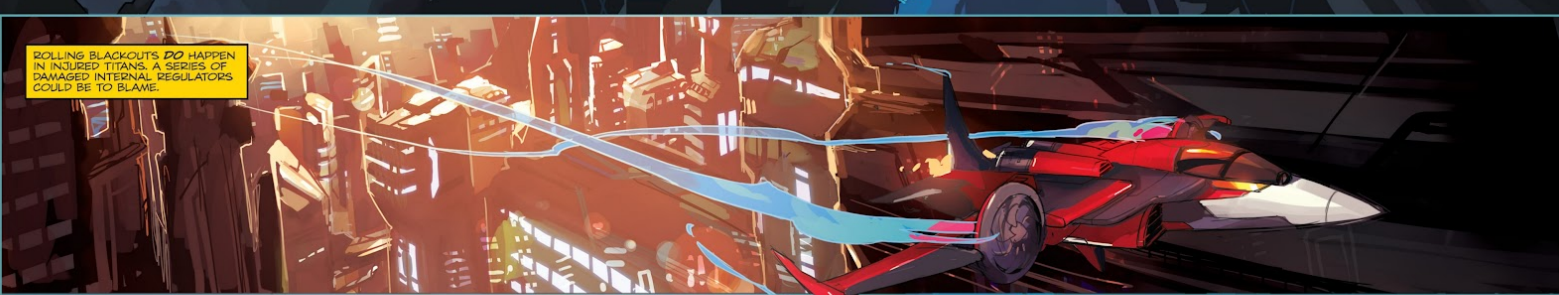
"WE SAW BUT COULD
NOT TOUCH THEIR
WANDERING GRACE..."

T134, T135, T136—
DIVERTED. STATUS?

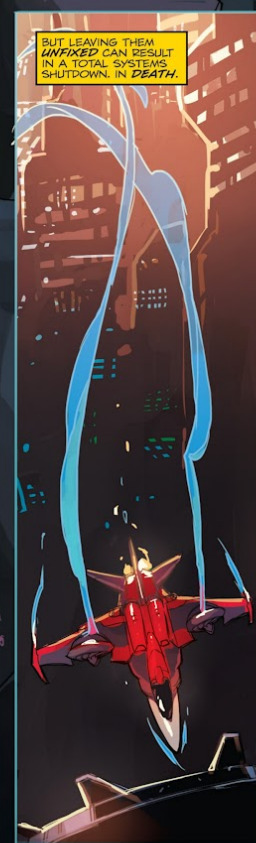
...DIVERTED?
WHERE?

STATUS?
DIVERTED.
T134, T135...





ROLLING BLACKOUTS *DO* HAPPEN IN INJURED TITANS. A SERIES OF DAMAGED INTERNAL REGULATORS COULD BE TO BLAME.



BUT LEAVING THEM *UNWIKED* CAN RESULT IN A TOTAL SYSTEMS SHUTDOWN. IN *DEATH*.



MY FIRST GOAL IS TO FIND IRONHIDE, WHO WAS ONCE AN INDOMITABLE AUTOBOT.

THEY SAY HE WAS BLESSED WITH A *VISION* OF THE *FUTURE* AND IT MADE HIM FEARLESS.

HIS PATH WAS MADE CLEAR; HIS FAITH, ABSOLUTE.

...HAVE *CONTRADICTED* MUCH OF WHAT IRONHIDE SAW.

BUT THE SAME EVENTS THAT BROUGHT ME TO CYBERTRON...



HE WANDERS METROPLEX NOW, HOPING THE TITAN WILL HOLD *SOME* EXPLANATION.



IRONHIDE!



THANK PRIMUS! WHAT ARE YOU DOING SO FAR DOWN?

AM I? I WAS FOLLOWING AN OIL LINE... GUESS I LOST TRACK A THING.

IT'S NOT GOING WELL SO FAR.



HAVE YOU COME ACROSS A JUNCTION CALLED **T134** OR SOME NUMBER NEAR THERE? I THINK THEY MIGHT BE **POWER REGULATORS**.

YEAH...

...THE 130s ARE AT THE EDGE OF THE CITY, UNDER THE... **ACROLIGHT DISTRICT** SOMEWHERE.



DID YOU NOTICE IF THEY WERE DAMAGED IN ANY WAY?

NOT SINCE I SAW 'EM, BUT THAT WAS A WHILE AGO. THINGS CHANGE... SO FAST.



WELL, IF ONE OF THEM IS BROKEN I'M SURE I CAN FIX IT.

IT FEELS CRUEL SOMEHOW, BUT I HAVE TO ASK HIM.

IRONHIDE...



...DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT **STARSCREAM**... WHAT KIND OF 'BOT HE IS, I MEAN.

STARSCREAM WAS ON THE OTHER SIDE'A THINGS IN THE WAR.



YOU WANNA KNOW WHO A 'BOT IS, YOU GOTTA ASK HIS FRIENDS. NOT HIS ENEMIES.

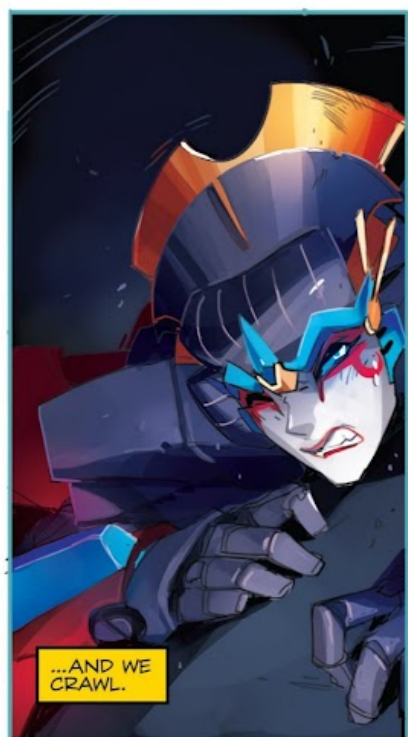
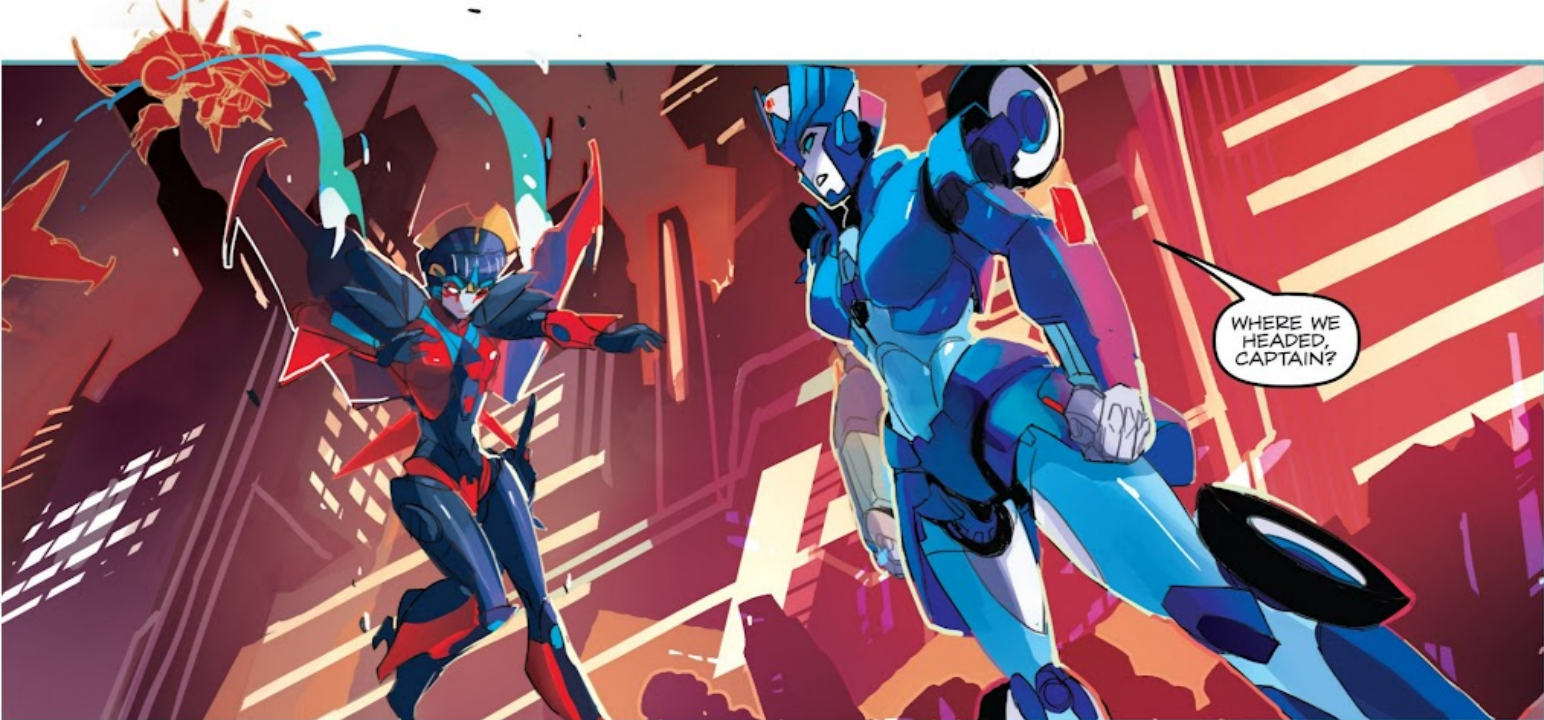
I WILL.

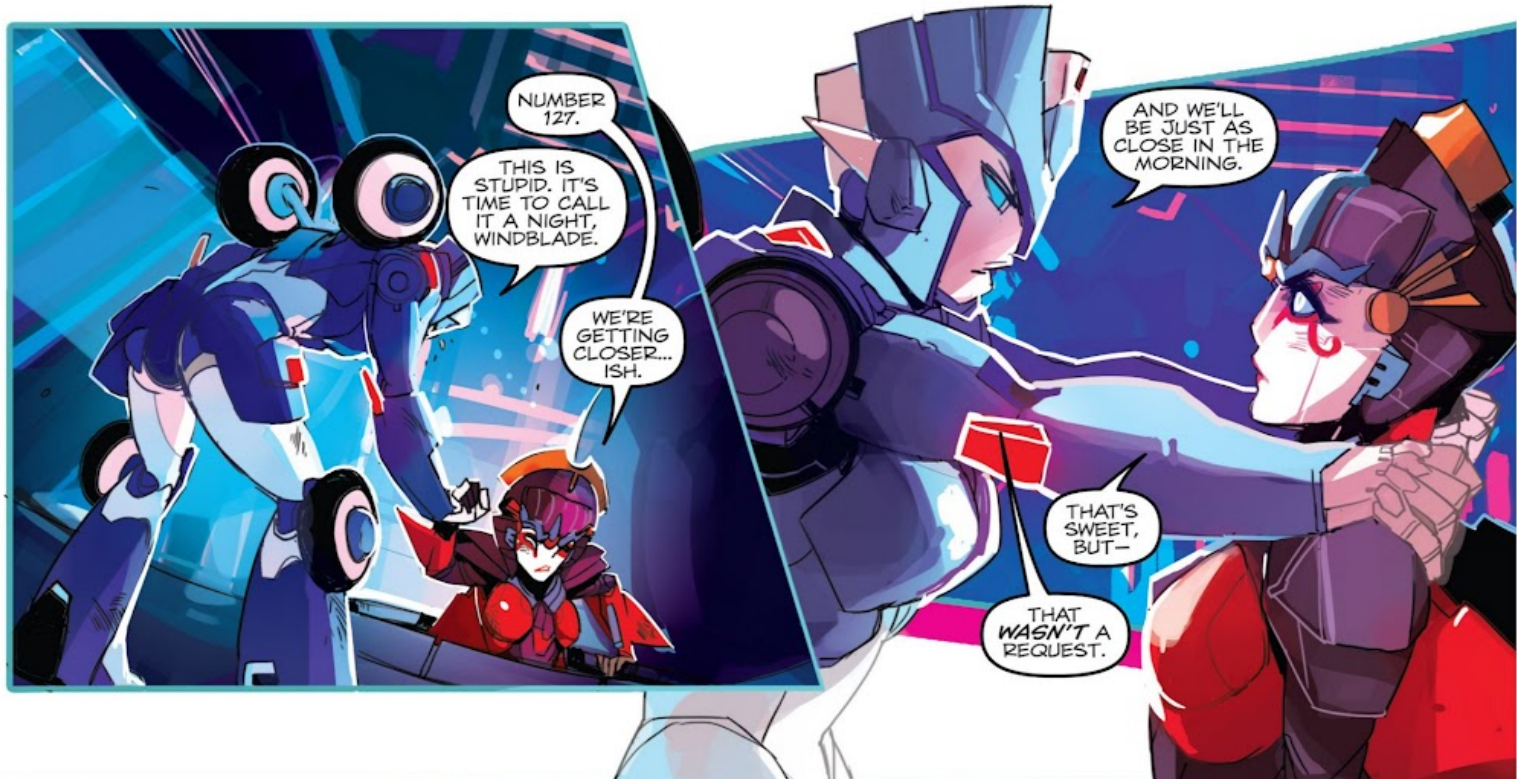
DON'T GET LOST DOWN HERE, OKAY?



EVEN THOUGH I KNOW HE ALREADY IS.

CHROMIA, MEET ME IN THE ACROLIGHT DISTRICT. SOUTH END. I'M HEADING THERE NOW.







I MAY NOT BE FROM CYBERTRON, BUT SOME THINGS ARE TRUE ON ANY PLANET.

AND ALL THE BEST INFORMATION...



...COMES FROM A BAR.

TANKOR
A.K.A. TALL TANKOR

RODIMUS SAID IT *HIMSELF*, I PRACTICALLY RAN THE WHOLE SHIP.

TANKOR
A.K.A. FAT TANKOR
(NOT TO HIS FACE)

BLURR
FAST EVERYTHING

FIZZLE
CONSTANTLY REMINDS EVERYONE HE WAS ON THE LOST LIGHT

THIS IS A DINOBOT-DEMOLISHER?! IT'S AN INSULT!

SLUG
DEFAULT = GRUMPY

I'VE HAD FOUR AND I CAN STILL SEE!

HEY! IT WAS WORKING WHEN I GOT IT.

I MEAN, WOULD I LIE?

SWINDLE
CURRENTLY LYING

REALLY...?

WASPINATOR
SWEET, BUT DIM

SKY-BYTE
??... JUST ROLL WITH IT



WELL, BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE WE'VE HAD ONE OF OUR ESTEEMED GUESTS VISIT MACCARAM'S OLD OIL HOUSE.

WINDBLADE, RIGHT?

WINDBLADE, ACTUA—

WINDBLADE! OF COURSE! I'M BLURR, THE OWNER AND PROPRIETOR. FIRST ROUND'S ON THE HOUSE FOR THE 'BOT KEEPING METROPLEX GOING. CERTAINLY MADE REBUILDING—AGAIN—A LOT EASIER.



ALTHOUGH IF YOU CAN PUT A WORD IN WITH THE BIG GUY, WE'VE GOT A LITTLE BIT OF A STORAGE PROBLEM—AND THESE BLACKOUTS AREN'T—

HIT THE BRAKES, CHATTER-BOT! IT'S A CONVERSATION, NOT A RACE.



WHAT CAN I GET YOU?

WHATEVER HE'S HAVING.

UNIVERSAL TRUISM #2: OLD SOLDIERS LOVE TELLING WAR STORIES.



IT TAKES THREE GLASSES UNTIL I CAN SLIP IT INTO CONVERSATION.

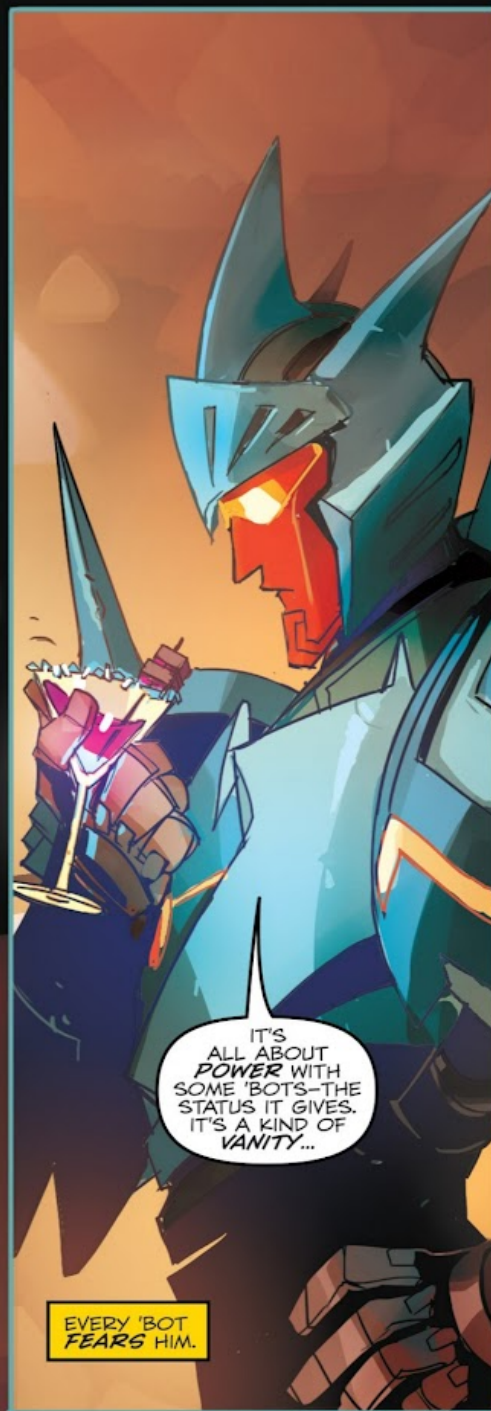
SO, WHAT DO YOU THINK OF STARScream?

STARScream?! STARScream?!

I'LL TELL YOU ABOUT STARScream.



THE FLOOD-GATES OPEN.



THE NEXT DAY.

IT'S NOT
TECHNICALLY
DAWN YET. BUT
I ADMIRE THE
EFFORT.

LET'S
JUST GET
GOING.

HEY, WHAT'S
WRONG? YOU
WERE SUPPOSED
TO TAKE IT
EASY.

IT'S NOTHING.
I'LL TELL YOU
LATER.

WINDBLADE,
WHAT'S
WRONG?

CHROMIA.
NOT HERE.

I
THINK—

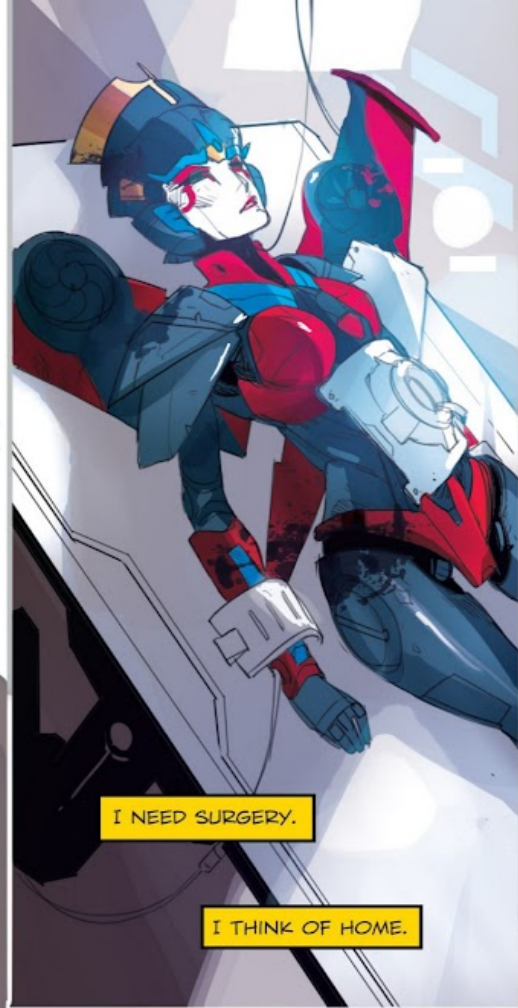
GLK!







CHROMIA SAVES ME, THEN HELPS THE OTHERS; THREE 'BOTS DIE FROM THE EXPLOSION; IT COULD HAVE BEEN MORE.



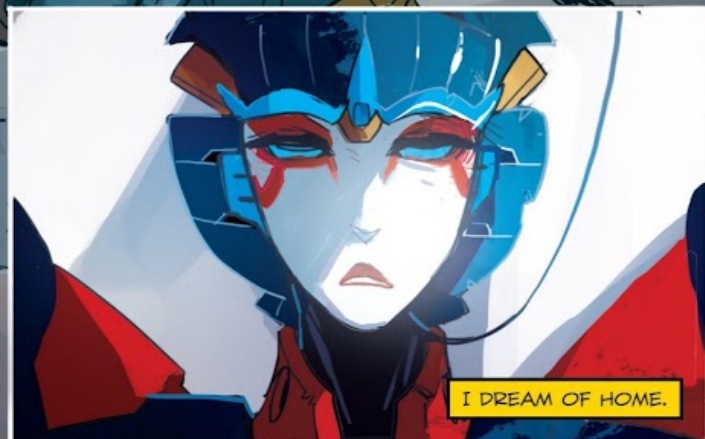
I NEED SURGERY.

I THINK OF HOME.



STARSCREAM CLAIMS THE BLAST WAS CAUSED BY "POOR MAINTENANCE."

HE URGES THE CITIZENS OF METROPLEX TO REBUILD IN THE RUINS OF IACON. NO ONE DOES... YET.



I DREAM OF HOME.

MILLIONS OF YEARS AGO,
CYBERTRON WAS NOT A LONE
PLANET, BUT A GRAND *EMPIRE*.

ENORMOUS LIVING SHIPS, LIKE
CAMINUS, CARRIED NOT
ONLY CREWS AND ENERGON...

...BUT THEIR OWN *HOT SPOTS*,
THOSE MIRACLES OF FAITH AND
ENERGY FROM WHICH ALL
TRANSFORMERS ARE BORN.

FROM THESE THINGS, AND
FROM HIMSELF, CAMINUS
FORGED OUR WORLD. AND
THROUGH *TIME* AND
CHANCE WE LOST TOUCH
WITH OUR BRETHREN.

CAMIENS BELIEVED THAT
WE WOULD NEVER SEE
CYBERTRON AGAIN.

WE CHANGED.
WE ADAPTED.
ALL LIFE DOES.

BUT CAMIENS LIKE *ME* GREW UP
ON STORIES OF OUR ANCIENT
HOMEWORLD, *CYBERTRON*.

WHEN THE AUTOBOT *THUNDERCLASH*
ASKED FOR OUR HELP IN HEALING A
TITAN, THREE OF US WERE SENT TO
ACCOMPLISH THIS SACRED FEAT.

INCLUDING ME.



I DREAMT OF THE
MAGNIFICENCE
OF THIS NEW,
AWAITING *GIANT*.

I DREAMT OF THE
HAPPY REUNION
WE'D HAVE WITH OUR
LONG-LOST FAMILY.

MOST OF ALL, I
DREAMT OF THE
HELP CYBERTRON
COULD GIVE US.

ITS VAST *KNOWLEDGE*
AND *WEALTH* TURNED
ONCE AGAIN TO OUR
STRUGGLING LITTLE
HOMEWORLD.

WHERE EVERY ACTION IS
MEASURED AND WEIGHED
AGAINST OUR SURVIVAL.

I DREAMT OF
THE *FREEDOM*
TO COME.



I'M NOT
DREAMING
ANYMORE.



STARSCREAM TRIED TO KILL ME. HE RISKED METROPLEX TO DO IT.

AND IF HE TRIED IT ONCE...



...HE WILL TRY AGAIN.

WELL.
LOOK WHO
ISN'T
DEAD.

A 'BOT AND HER CITY

TO BE CONTINUED

TRANSFORMERS: WINDBLADE

Ba-weep-gra-na-weep-ninny-bong, Readers!

It seemed only fitting to start the first issue of *Transformers: Windblade* with the extraterrestrial Universal Greeting: a phrase in the Transformers universe used to express good will and non-hostile intentions to an alien who doesn't speak your language.

In a way, it's also an excellent metaphor for *Transformers* in general because, like someone seeing the Universal Greeting for the first time, it can be hard to know where to begin.

"Ba-weep-what now?"

Even if you know the Greeting's meaning, you might not know the history behind it, or who first said it. You might be leery of the one jerk out there who's going to ridicule you for your pronunciation:

"It's we-ep, not weep, Stupid!"

But the most important thing to remember is, that it is not possible to say *Ba-weep-gra-na-weep-ninny-bong* out loud and not smile. That's why it's the Universal Greeting. It just sounds friendly, even a little silly, and intentionally so. If aliens landed and recited it, you may have no idea what they are saying, but the last thing you could mistake it for is a threat.

Transformers comics are the same way: complex, alien, rich with history, and sometimes contradictory. And when I tell friends that *Transformers: Windblade* is the story of a young Camien CitySpeaker and her city-mode Titan, it sounds just as incomprehensible as *"Ba-weep..."* But the truth is, that's not what this comic is about. That is not its heart. *Transformers: Windblade* is the story of a young woman trying to find her place, her voice, in the world and all the joy and pain that comes with it. The message is simple, the core, universal. It's only the syntax that changes.

So to our new fans, those trying this out for the first time, welcome. In your hands is the first issue of a 4-part mini-series designed to give you a foot in the door to IDW's amazing *Transformers* comics. You may not understand everything, but if you keep in mind that our characters are robots who turn into things, you should be alright. If you like it, check out James Roberts and Alex Milne's *More Than Meets the Eye* and John Barber and Andrew Griffith's *Robots In Disguise* to get a look at what's going on in other parts of our universe.

For old-time fans, hold on tight!

We've pushed the boundaries on what a *Transformers* book can be, should be and (hopefully) will be in the future. We've given a new spin to some of your old favorites and new depth to some of our less-explored characters. Most importantly, we're opening a whole new sandbox for everyone to play in.

Making this book was not an easy road, and it wouldn't have been possible without John Barber's wisdom and guidance, IDW's out-and-out guts, Michael Kelly's endless support for my writing, Rosalind Morehead's endless promotion of this book, Hasbro's true desire to hear their own fanbase, my husband's constant encouragement, the enormous group of women who gathered with me at BotCon 2013 and literally shouted to be heard, my letterer, Chris Mowry, who always makes my dialogue look so good, and last but not most important of all, Sarah Stone's *tremendous* talent.

Sarah, I saw your work two years before I met you and literally prayed that we would work together someday. You make me a better writer and you will surely make comics a better medium with your art.

And to everyone holding this book, THANK YOU! I cannot thank all of you enough for picking up this book, for trekking out to your comic book store and pre-ordering, for all the tweets and tumblr posts, and message-board discussions. The outpouring of support that Sarah and I received has been incredible. I always wanted this to be a book for you, the fans, and I feel like since our announcement, your support has really made us all feel like we were making something special.

And it's your support we need right now. Tell your stores you love us, tell your friends you love us, tell the Internet you love us, force this book into the hands of the person you *know* would love us if they would just give us a chance. And thank you again, for giving us a chance.

"Til All Are One,

Mairghread Scott

SEND US YOUR LETTERS: Share your thoughts on all things *WINDBLADE*-related by writing to: TRANSFORMERS: WINDBLADE, C/O IDW PUBLISHING, 5080 SANTA FE ST., SAN DIEGO, CA 92109; emailing letters@idwpublishing.com; or visiting the Transformers forum at <http://forum.idwpublishing.com/>. Mark all letters "Okay to print"!



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PREVIOUSLY

A red and black Cybertronian with a crown-like headpiece stands on a dark, angular rooftop. In the background, a sprawling city of Cybertron is visible under a bright, hazy sun. The city's architecture is a mix of sharp, industrial spires and more rounded, futuristic structures.

AFTER THE EVENTS OF *DARK CYBERTRON*, THE TITAN *METROPLEX* CONVERTED TO CITY MODE AND OFFERED REFUGE TO ANY OTHER CYBERTRONIAN IN NEED.

A large, dark, abstract shape representing a city in its 'city mode' is shown against a dark, starry background. Bright blue and yellow energy lines and sparks emanate from various points on the structure, suggesting a state of high energy or conflict.

BUT *METROPLEX* IS STILL WEAK FROM HIS INJURIES—AND WHILE INVESTIGATING POWER OUTAGES IN *METROPLEX*...

Two Cybertronians are engaged in a physical struggle. One, with a more angular, grey and brown design, is being pushed back by another with a more rounded, dark brown and black design. The background is a simple, light-colored wall.

...*WINDBLADE* IS NEARLY KILLED IN AN EXPLOSION THAT SHE REALIZES WAS SET UP BY *STARSCREAM*.

A close-up of two Cybertronian faces. On the left, a blue and red face (Megatron) looks towards the right. On the right, a blue and white face (Optimus Prime) looks back. The background is a plain, light blue wall.

BUT WHY IS THE *LEADER OF CYBERTRON* TRYING TO KILL THE ONLY PERSON WHO KEEPS HIS CITY GOING?

THE CAST



WINDBLADE

CitySpeaker for Metroplex;
not from Cybertron.



CHROMIA

Bodyguard;
NOT FROM CYBERTRON.



IRONHIDE

Saw the future;
was proven wrong.



STARSCREAM

Ruler of Cybertron;
not loving it.



BLURR

Bartender / Not-So-Ex Celebrity.



WASPINATOR

Life's favorite chew toy.



...WITH SO MANY INJURED CYBERTRONIANS, INCLUDING OUR VISITING DELEGATE **WINDBLADE**, MANY ARE ASKING IF THE **EXPLOSION** IN THE **ACROLIGHT** DISTRICT OF **METROPLEX** WAS AN ACCIDENT... OR INTENTIONAL.

WE SPOKE TO **SEVERAL** CYBERTRONIANS AFFECTED BY THE INCIDENT. HERE WERE THEIR REACTIONS.



GET THAT OUT OF MY FACE BEFORE IT GETS **BROKEN**.

CYBERTRONIANS HAVE THE RIGHT TO KNOW. HOW IS **WINDBLADE** RECOVERING?



I'M NOT A FORENSICS EXPERT, **CIRCUIT**; I'M A **BARTENDER**. IF YOU CAME HERE TO **DRINK**, THAT'S GREAT. IF NOT, DO IT SOMEWHERE ELSE.



LOOK, IT'S **UNFORTUNATE**, BUT IT'S NOT LIKE **METROPLEX** HAS BEEN RUNNING AT 100%.

THAT'S **SCRAP**. THIS STINKS OF **STARSCREAM** AND YOU KNOW IT.



TOO RIZZY FOR **METROPLEX LADY** UNDERGROUND. **WAZZPINATOR** KNOW WHERE HE NOT WANTED...



I KNOW I TALK FAST, SO I'M GONNA SLOW DOWN...

...BUY...

...A...

...DRINK...

...OR LEAVE!

FZZT



I DIDN'T EXPECT TO SEE YOU OUTSIDE OF THE TOWER.

IRONHIDE IS GUARDING METROPLEX'S MIND. JUST SO YOU KNOW.

I KNEW MY PATH WOULD NEVER BE EASY.

A CITYSPEAKER'S LIFE IS DEDICATED TO OTHERS.



YOU'RE BLOCKING MY WAY, GUARD.

I COULD REPORT YOU TO OPTIMUS. HE TOLD US TO. ANYTHING SUSPICIOUS.



IF YOU HAD THE PROOF OR THE AUTHORITY TO DO THAT, YOU WOULD HAVE DONE IT ALREADY.

SERVING THEIR NEEDS...



WELL. LOOK WHO ISN'T DEAD.

...PUTTING THEIR LIVES ABOVE YOUR OWN.



AW, SCRAP.

TWO DAYS AGO, SOMEONE NEARLY KILLED ME...



...AND **NOTHING** MAKES YOU QUESTION YOUR PRIORITIES QUITE LIKE **NEAR-DEATH**.

THAT WAS QUITE A... **FORTUNATE** ACCIDENT.
THE EXPLOSION.

STARScream. ON MY PLANET, WE NORMALLY CALL EXPLOSIONS **UNFORTUNATE**.

MY **KILLER**—STARScream. RULER OF ALL CYBERTRON.



AND YET, YOU **SURVIVED**. WITH ONLY...

URK!

...**MINOR** INJURIES.

AS **PETTY** A KING AS YOU'RE THINKING.



AND FAR **WORSE** THAN I THOUGHT.

I CALL THAT **UNUSUALLY** FORTUNATE.

I'M **HONORED** YOU CAME TO VISIT. I KNOW HOW BUSY YOU—



YOU MAY BE THEIR HERO NOW, BUT I **KNOW**... BETTER THAN **ANYONE**... HOW EASILY HEROES CAN FALL.

BE **CAREFUL**, CITYSPEAKER. I DON'T THINK EVEN YOU ARE FORTUNATE ENOUGH TO CHEAT DEATH **TWICE**.

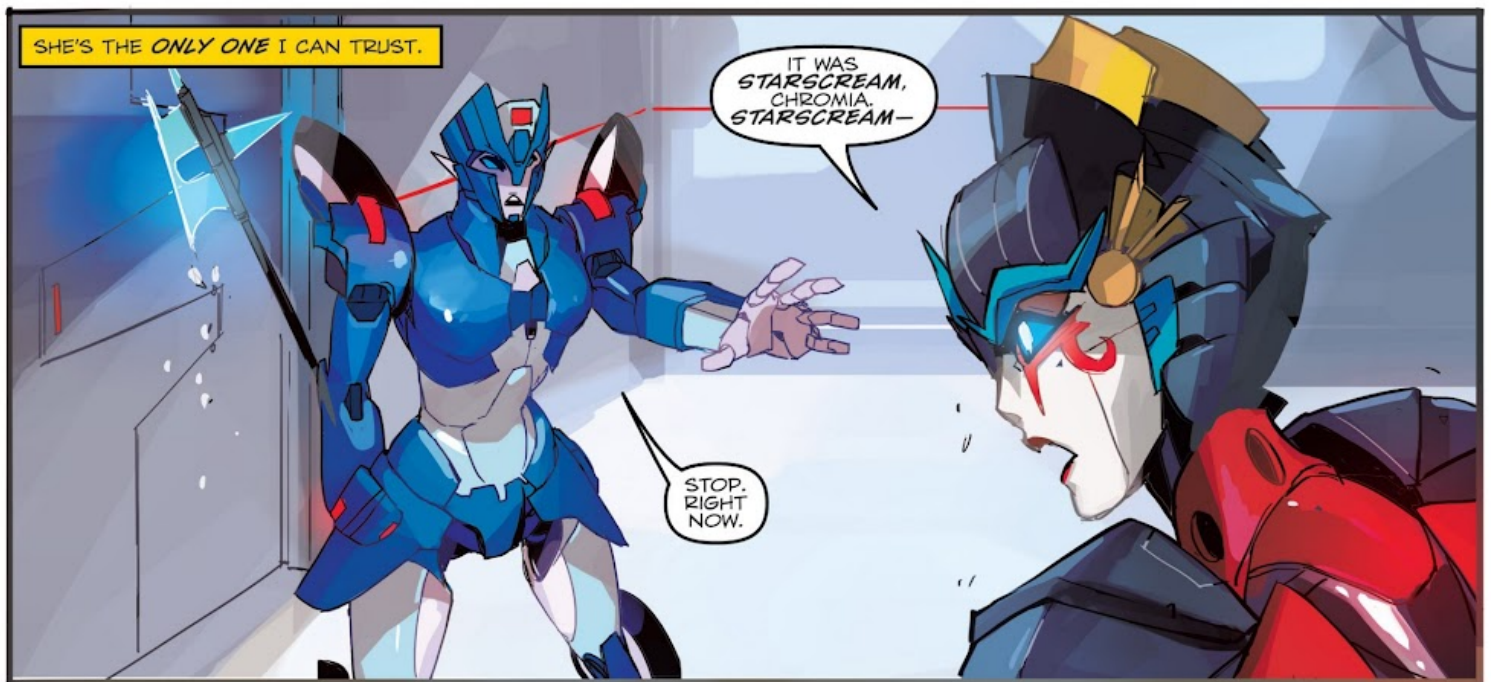
WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, LORD STARScream...

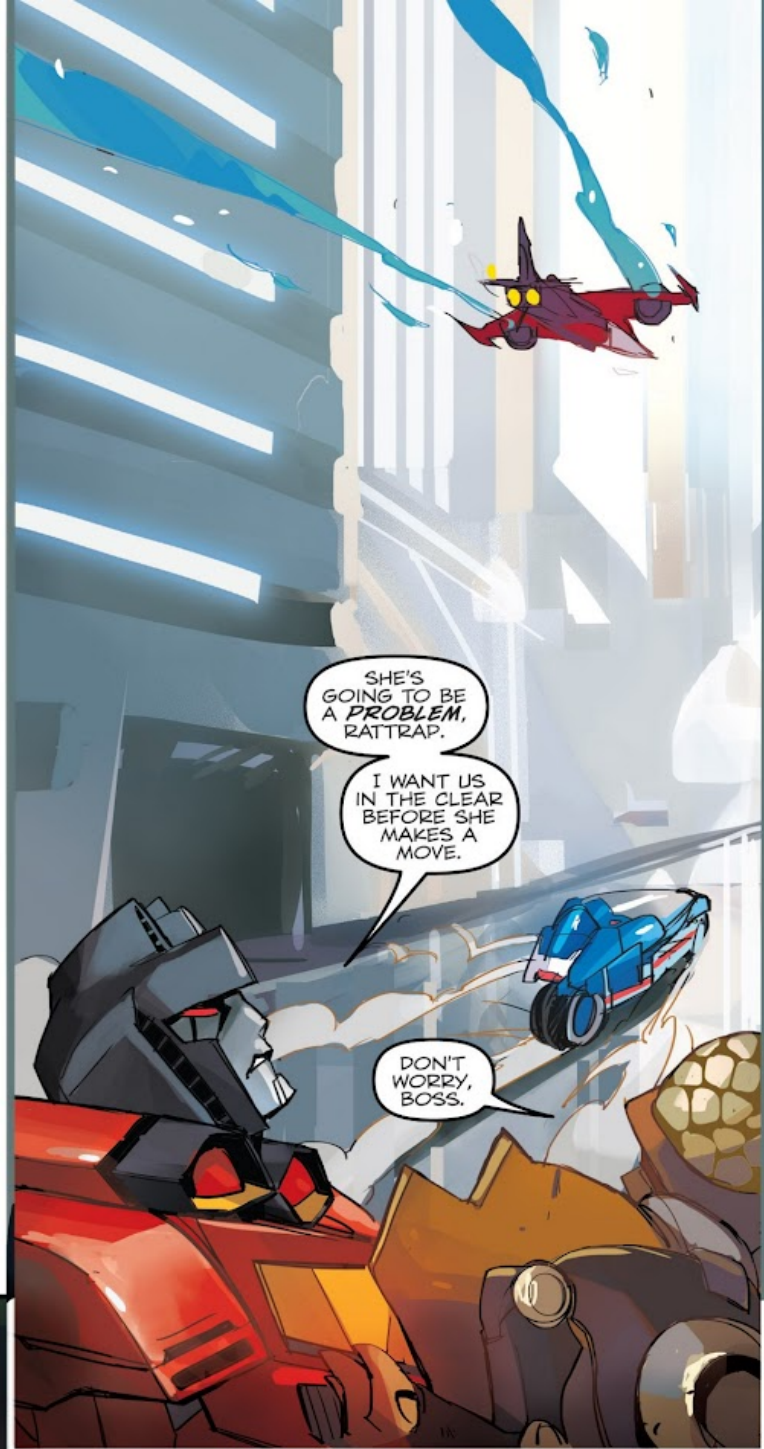


...I NEED TO ASK YOU TO LEAVE. **NOW**.

I PRAY HE DOESN'T SEE MY HAND TREMBLE.









...WELL, *ALMOST* THE ONLY ONE.

THANKS FOR COVERING FOR US, IRONHIDE.

PLEASURE'S ALL MINE. IT'S NICE TO BE ABOVE GROUND.

GOOD, BECAUSE WE NEED TO IMPOSE ON YOU A BIT MORE.



WE THINK THAT STARScream WAS BEHIND THE EXPLOSION IN ACROLIGHT.

YOU GOT THE PROOF?

DOES THE FACT THAT YOU'RE NOT EVEN *PRETENDING* TO BE SHOCKED COUNT?

HE *WARNED* ME. IN HIS OWN WAY. ABOUT STARScream.



WHAT CHROMIA MEANS IS "NO."

THEN YOU'LL NEED TO GET IT.

ANYTHING THAT WAS THERE IS *GONE* BY NOW. IF I LEARNED ONE THING ABOUT STARScream, IT'S THAT HE'S *CAREFUL*.



TRUE, BUT YOU GOTTA ASK YOURSELF "WHY NOW?"

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO HIM LATELY?

I CAN'T HELP BUT WONDER...



...HOW MANY *OTHER* WARNINGS I MISSED.

NOTHING. I ASKED ABOUT HIM AT MACCAdAM'S, BUT... WOULD *THAT* BE ENOUGH?

NAH. METROPLEX IS STILL IN ROUGH SHAPE, AND YOU'RE *HEALIN'* HIM. IT'S GOTTA BE MORE 'AN *THAT*.



WHAT IF IT *IS* METROPLEX?



RIGHT BEFORE THIS HAPPENED, STARScream WAS COMPLAINING ABOUT **POWER OUTAGES** IN METROPLEX. THAT'S WHAT SENT ME TO *YOU*... AND TO THE BOMB.

SO THE OUTAGES WERE **STAGED** JUST TO GET YOU IN RATTRAP'S CROSSHAIRS?



NOT *JUST* THAT. EVERYONE I SPOKE TO TALKED ABOUT HOW **CUNNING** STARScream IS—ALWAYS ONE STEP AHEAD.

WHAT IF THEY DIDN'T WANT ME TO FIND SOMETHING ELSE WRONG WITH METROPLEX? SOMETHING STARScream COULDN'T **AFFORD** FOR ME TO FIND.

METROPLEX'S INTERNAL CAMERAS ARE OFF TO CONSERVE POWER. STARScream KNOWS WE CAN'T TRACK HIM.

THEN *WE* WILL HAVE TO FIND THE PROBLEM HE WAS TRYIN' TO HIDE.



EASIER SAID THAN DONE.

WHEN METROPLEX FIRST RETURNED TO CYBERTRON HE WAS DYING, AND ALTHOUGH A MIRACULOUS **ORE** SAVED HIS LIFE—TRUE STORY—IT FAILED TO HEAL HIM **COMPLETELY**.

A TITAN AT 50% STILL FACES HUNDREDS OF PROBLEMS DAILY.

I ALWAYS FORGET HOW MESSED UP THE BIG GUY STILL IS.

FILTRATION SYSTEM
70% FUNCTIONING
AND DROPPING.

ACROLIGHT
STRUCTURAL
INTEGRITY 10%
IMPROVED.

THESE ARE JUST THE ISSUES THAT **CHANGED** SINCE THE BOMBING—GOT BETTER OR WORSE. THE "STILL THE SAME" LIST IS EVEN LONGER.



ENERGON FLOW
DIMINISHED IN
SECTOR 9.

I DO. EVEN THOUGH IT
MEANS FACING MY OWN
PERSONAL FAILURE.



I WAS SUPPOSED TO HEAL
HIM. I WAS SUPPOSED TO
MAKE THIS *RIGHT*.

"...AND SOME ARE
LIGHT AND FLEET
OF FOOT..."

METROPLEX,
CAN YOU SHOW
ME JUST THE
MOST IMMEDIATE
ISSUES?

WIND-VOICE...
WHY SAD? WHY?

IN REALITY, I FEAR
I JUST MADE
THINGS WORSE.



COOLANT
FLUCTUATION
STABILIZED
C-479

SHE JUST
WISHES SHE
COULD DO MORE.
THAT'S ALL.

(FUTURITY) MISS
WIND-VOICE. WILL
MISS, MISS SOON,
MISS (FUTURE-TENSE)

"...AND SOME
AS FIERCE AS
BEASTS..."



I WOULD BLEED MY OWN SPARK
DRY IF I COULD MAKE UP FOR IT.

LOSS/CHANGE:
REPENT. APOLOGY.
CONTRITION.
REGRET.

I'M NOT GOING
ANYWHERE UNTIL
YOU'RE HEALED.
I PROMISE.

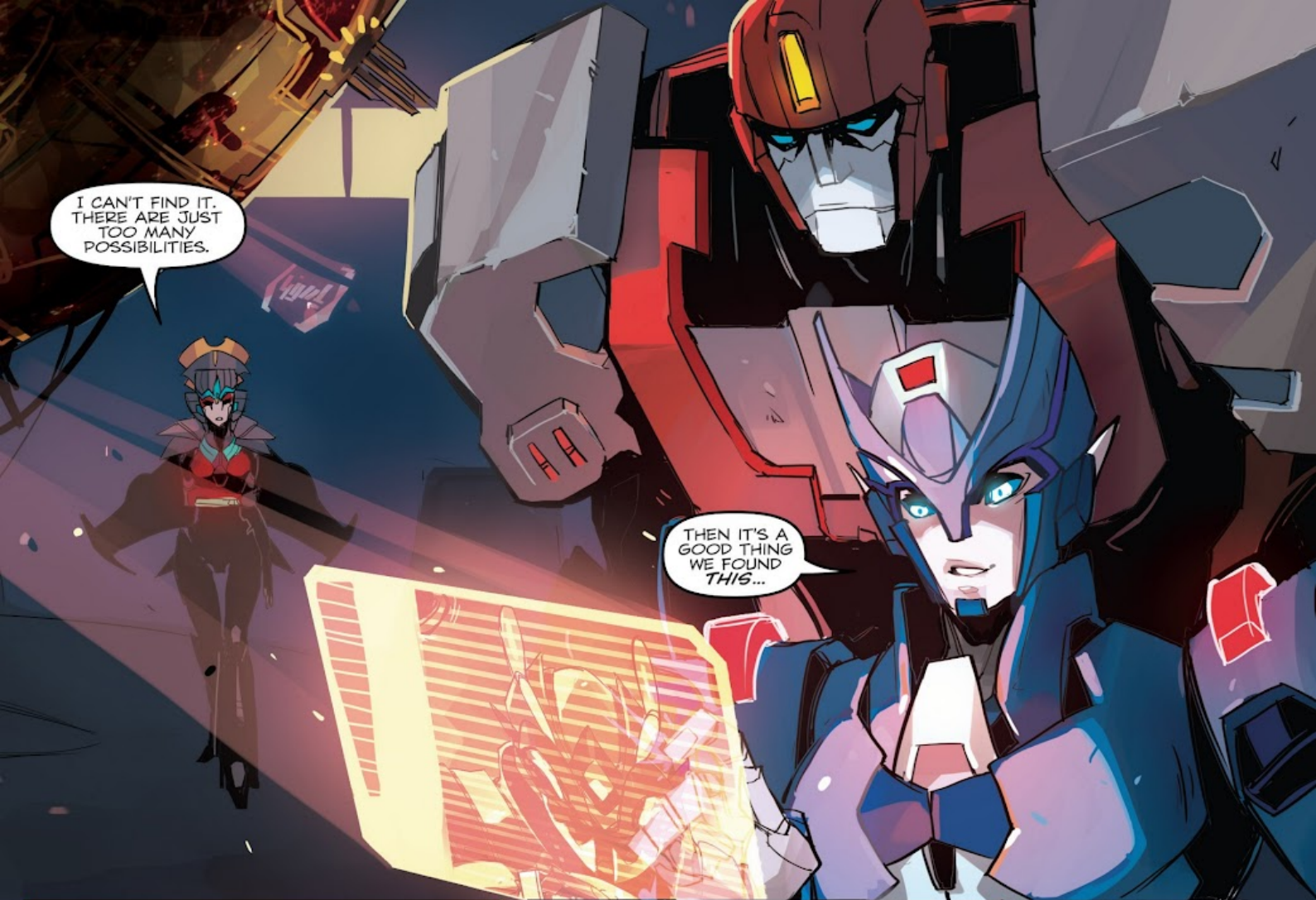
IF IT WOULD SOMEHOW
MAKE ME GOOD ENOUGH.

WIND-VOICE
SHOULD NOT
REGRET.

"...THOUGH FOOLS
CALLED THEM
THE LEAST."

WINDBLADE!

"...AND SOME
WERE PAIRED
FOREVERMORE..."



I CAN'T FIND IT.
THERE ARE JUST
TOO MANY
POSSIBILITIES.

THEN IT'S A
GOOD THING
WE FOUND
THIS...

TOO RIZKY
FOR METROPLEX.
LADY UNDERGROUND.
WAZPINATOR KNOW
WHERE HE NOT
WANTED...

WEIRD
CHOICE
OF WORDS, DON'CHA
THINK? I NEVER
TOLD WASPINATOR
TO STAY OUT OF
METROPLEX.

NEITHER
DID I.

WANNA
FIND OUT
WHO DID?

IRONHIDE,
CAN YOU STAY
HERE AND WATCH
METROPLEX? I
THINK I NEED
A DRINK.



HE JUST BOLTS UP THE STAIRS,
FASTER THAN I CAN REACT.

STOP!

WHICH IS WHY I'M NOT
THE BODYGUARD.

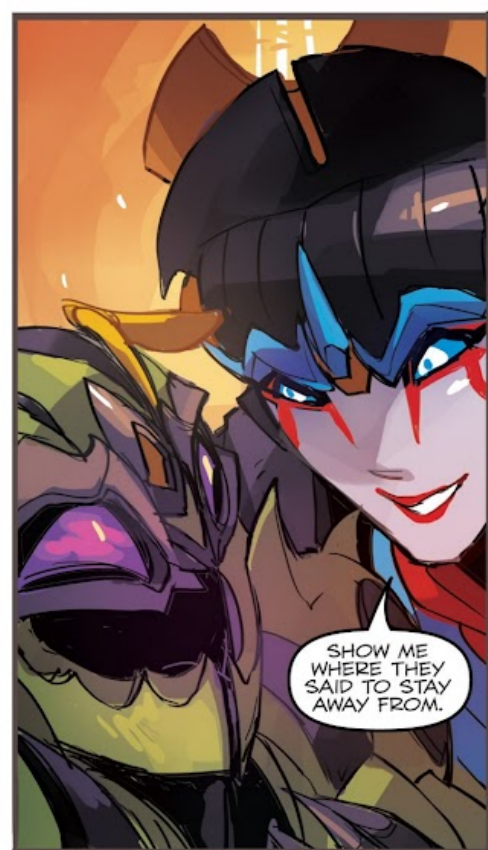
AHH!

GAHH!

OOOF!









I FOLLOW HIM. EVEN WHEN I STOP WANTING TO.

THIZZZ WAY...



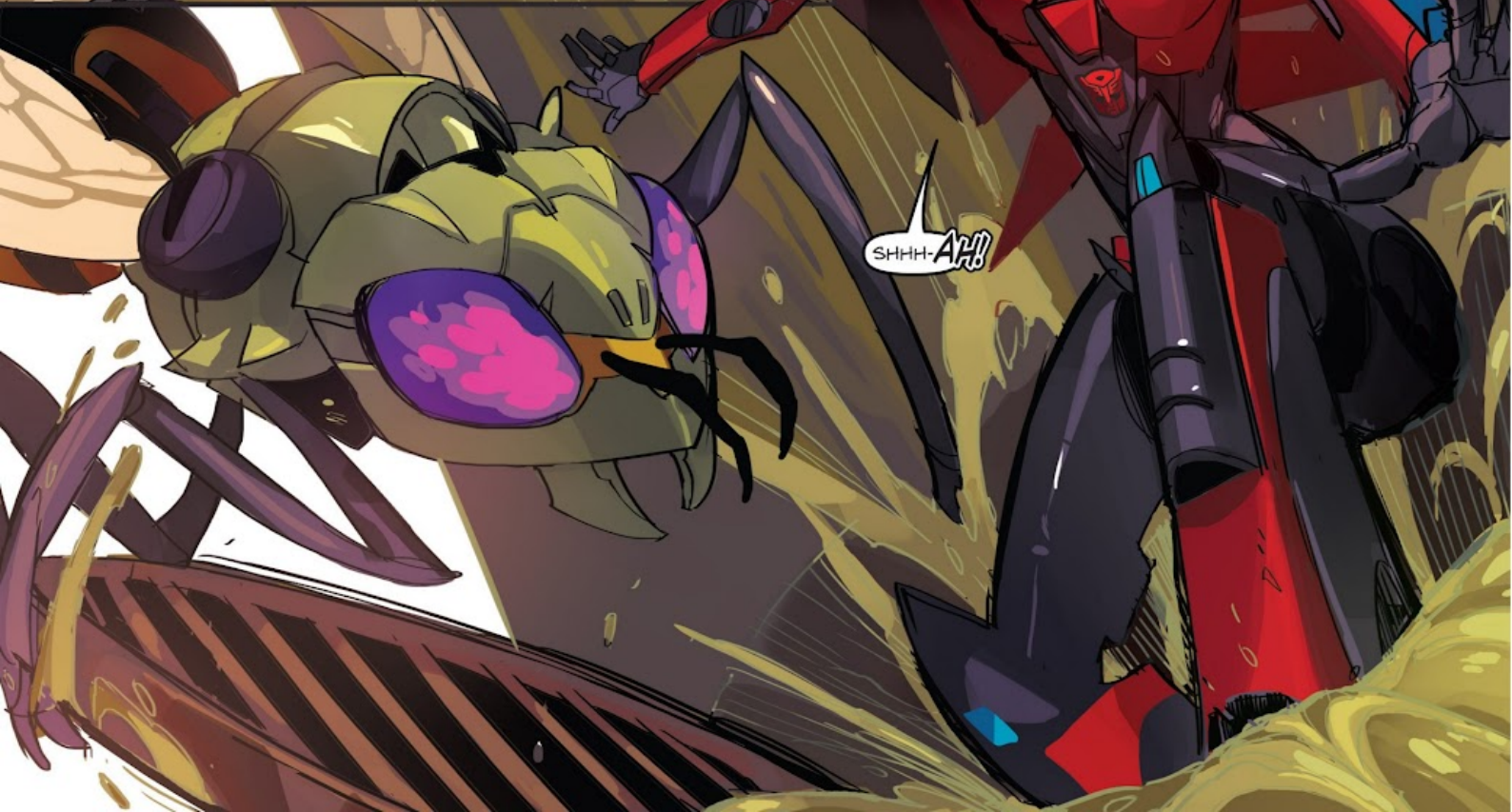
THROUGH PARTS OF METROPLEX I'D NEVER SEEN, PARTS I REGRET VISITING.

WHY WOULD ANYONE BE DOWN IN HIS FILTRATION SYSTEMS?



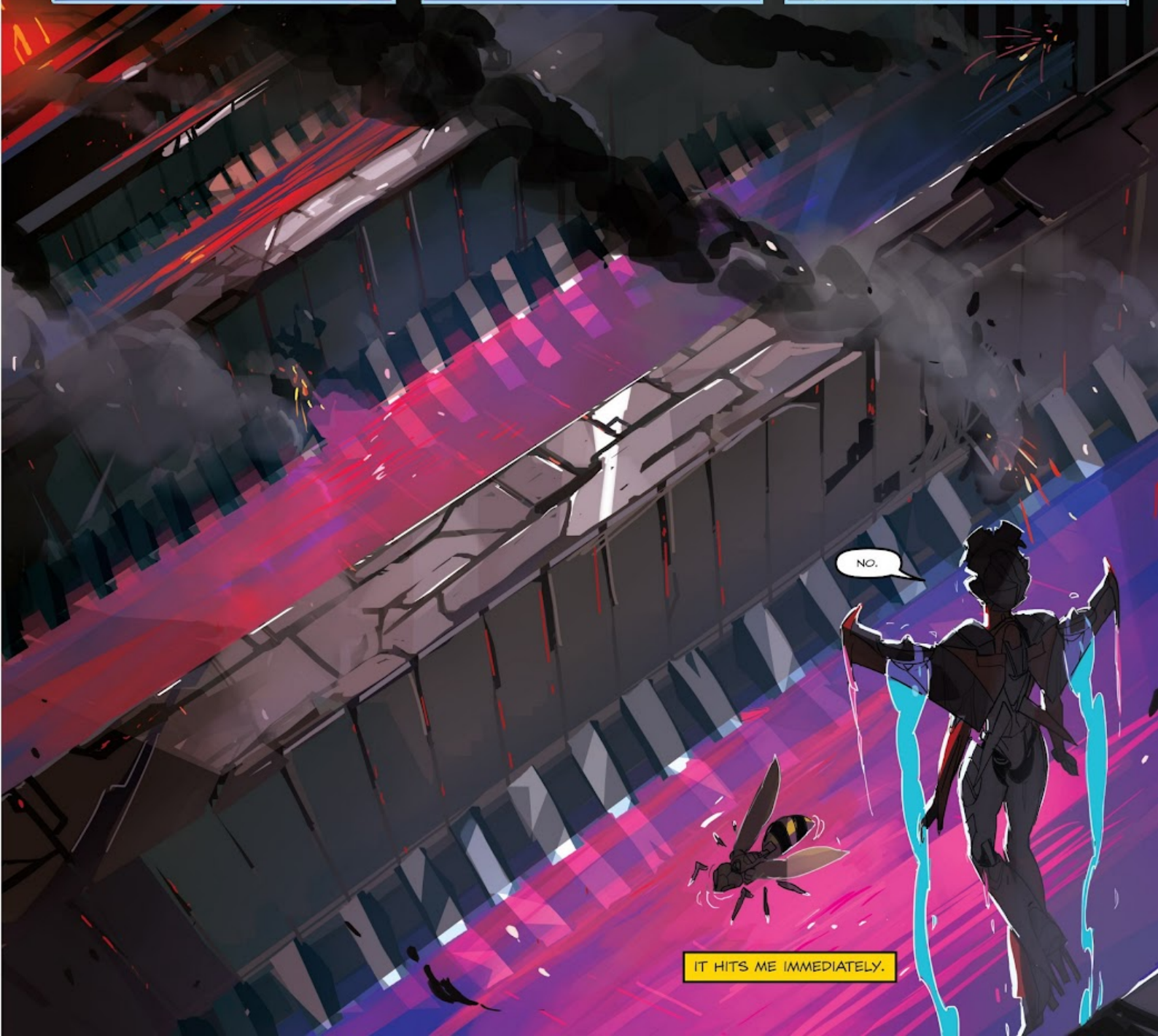
WINDBLADE FORGETZZZ, METROPLEXZZZ WAS HURT BEFORE HE WAS HEALED.

HURT? HE HASN'T BEEN HURT SINCE...



IN A WEIRD WAY, IT'S FITTING.

SHHH-AHH





WHEN I FIRST ENCOUNTERED METROPLEX, THE MAD SCIENTIST **SHOCKWAVE** HAD IMBUED HIM WITH A... WELL, A **DEATH ORE**.



A **LIQUID PLAGUE**. IT TOOK EVERYTHING WE HAD JUST TO KEEP HIM **ALIVE** AND IN THE END WE COULD ONLY **DELAY** THE ORE'S EFFECTS.



ANOTHER OF **SHOCKWAVE'S** ORES **SAVED** HIM. LONG STORY. BUT ONLY **SHOCKWAVE** COULD STOP HIS OWN TERRIBLE CREATION.

AND WITH **SHOCKWAVE GONE...**

IF **STARSCREAM** HAS ONE OF THE ORES—EITHER OF THEM... IF HE DOES MANAGE TO EXTRACT IT FROM **METROPLEX'S** FILTERS... NO ONE CAN STAND AGAINST HIM...

AND IF HE KILLS **METROPLEX** IN THE PROCESS... **TOO BAD.**

WASPINATOR.
LET'S GO.







CHROMIA! GET WHOEVER YOU CAN TOGETHER. WE NEED TO MOVE. NOW!

BUT I SPEAK FOR METROPLEX. NOT STARScream.



HEY, BLURR-HOW MANY 'BOTS IN HERE YOU THINK WOULD WANT TO KILL STARScream?

HONESTLY, "HAVEN'T TRIED TO KILL HIM" WOULD BE A SHORTER LIST.

IT'S TIME CYBERTRON REMEMBERED THAT.



HELLO, IS THIS CIRCUIT FROM IACONIAN NEWS SERVICE?



I THINK I MAY HAVE A STORY FOR YOU.





DAWN *OF THE* AUTOBOTS

IDW

#3

SCOTT
STONE

THE TRANS



FORMERS

WINDBLADE



DAWN OF THE AUTOBOTS

WINDBLADE #3

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MAIRGHREAD SCOTT

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SARAH STONE

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Editor:

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PREVIOUSLY



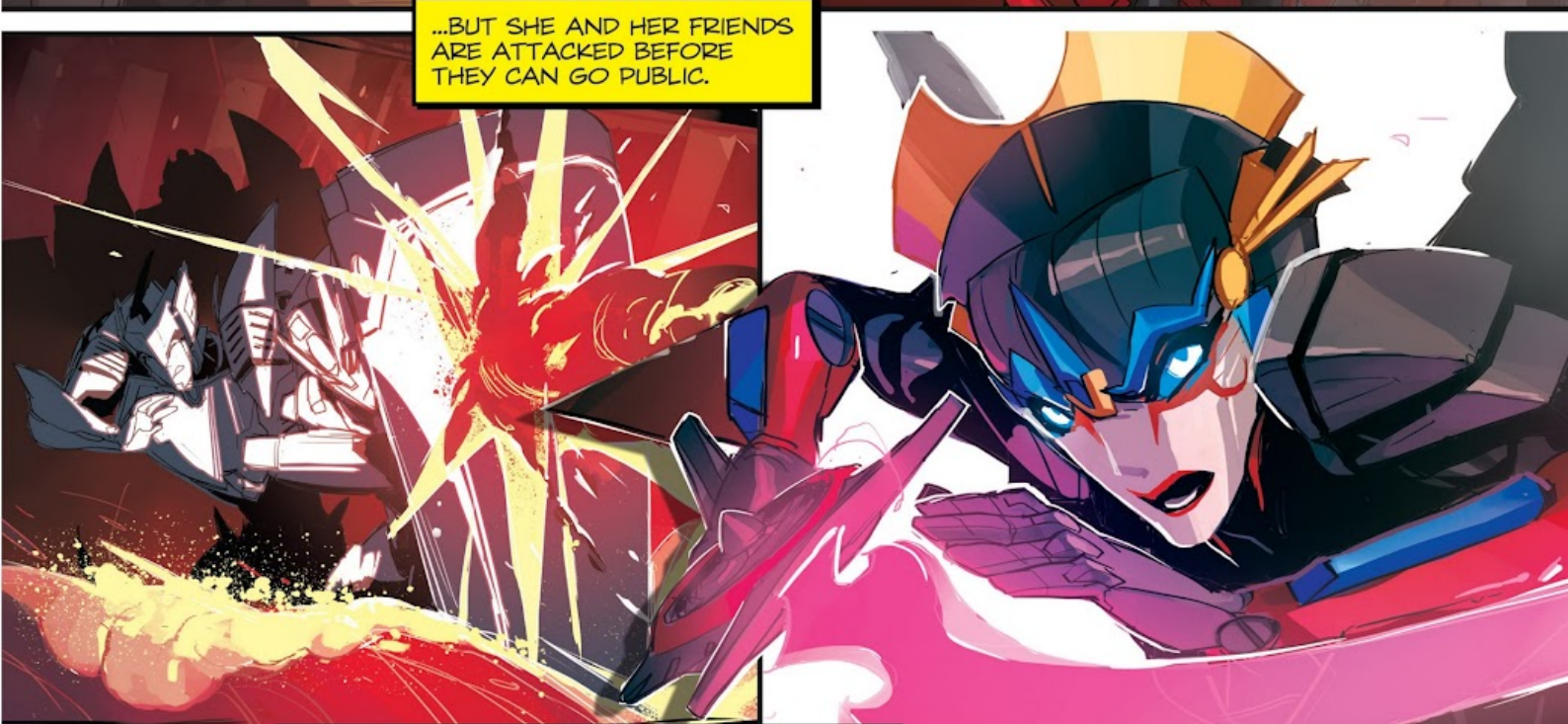
AFTER A DESPERATE BATTLE FOR THE FATE OF THE UNIVERSE, THE GIANT TITAN **METROPLEX** CONVERTED TO CITY-MODE AND OFFERED REFUGE TO ALL CYBERTRONIANS.



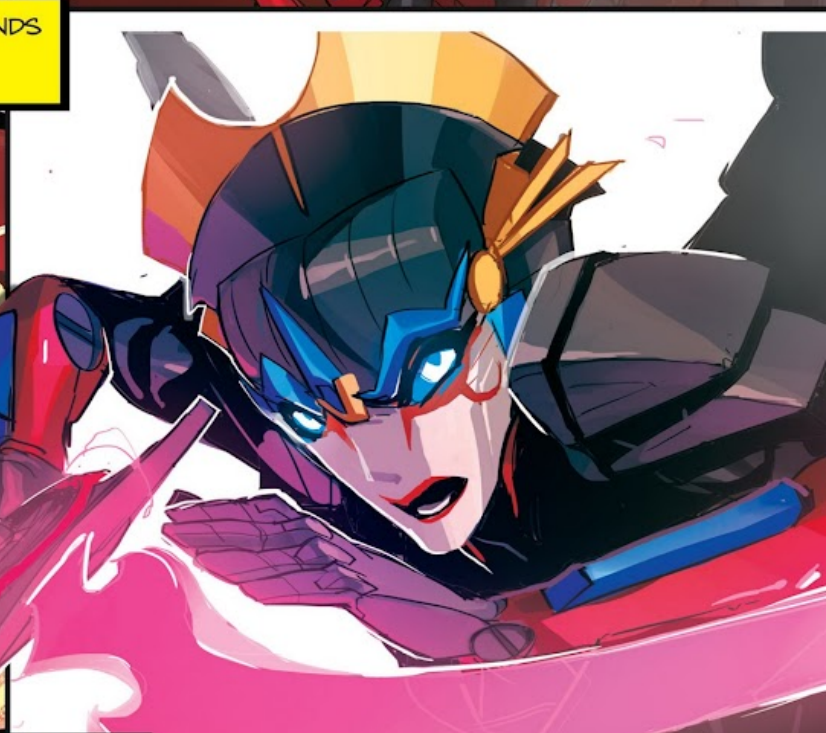
INVESTIGATING POWER OUTAGES IN METROPLEX, WINDBLADE UNCOVERS A PLOT BY CYBERTRON'S LEADER, **STARSCREAM**... A PLOT THAT MIGHT DEVASTATE THE LIVING CITY.



SURVIVING SEVERAL ATTEMPTS ON HER LIFE, WINDBLADE CONTACTS THE REPORTERS, **LONGTOOTH** AND **CIRCUIT**, TO REVEAL STARSCREAM'S PLOT...



...BUT SHE AND HER FRIENDS ARE ATTACKED BEFORE THEY CAN GO PUBLIC.



NOW—CAN WINDBLADE EXPOSE STARSCREAM'S TREACHERY TO THE REST OF CYBERTRON? CAN SHE EVEN LIVE THROUGH THE ATTEMPT?

THE CAST



WINDBLADE

CitySpeaker for Metroplex;
not from Cybertron.



CHROMIA

Bodyguard;
NOT FROM CYBERTRON.



STARSCREAM

Ruler of Cybertron;
not loving it.



RATTRAP

Starscream's lackey;
not hating it.



BLURR

Bartender / Not-So-Ex-Celebrity.



WASPINATOR

Life's favorite chew toy... that's it.



LOOK AT THE LITTLE **AUTOBOT**. WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ALL THE WAY DOWN THERE?

MAYBE SHE'S GONNA WAVE HER SWORD REAL HARD, **CUTTHROAT**.

I WANNA EAT THE **REPORTER**. THE YELLOW ONE.

YOU GOTTA GET IN LINE.

MY NAME IS **WINDBLADE**... AND I ALMOST NEVER BECAME A **CITYSPEAKER**.



KEEP IT **COOL**, **WINDBLADE**. THEY'RE TRYING TO GOAD US.

I WAS ONCE DEEMED TOO "CENTERED," TOO MUCH IN MYSELF, TO SPEAK SOLELY FOR A **TITAN**.



RAHHHH!

BUT I NEVER THOUGHT OF MY JOB AS BECOMING PART OF **METROPLEX**. IT WAS ABOUT WORKING **WITH** HIM. PROTECTING HIM FROM DANGER.

JUST BECAUSE YOU CAN INSTANTLY TRAVEL LIGHT-YEARS AWAY AND ARE SEVERAL MILES TALL DOESN'T MAKE YOU **INVINCIBLE**.



AFTER ALL, **STARSCREAM** IS TRYING TO KILL US **BOTH** RIGHT NOW.

WINDBLADE!
STAY HERE!



I CAN HANDLE MYSELF.



YOU SURE—

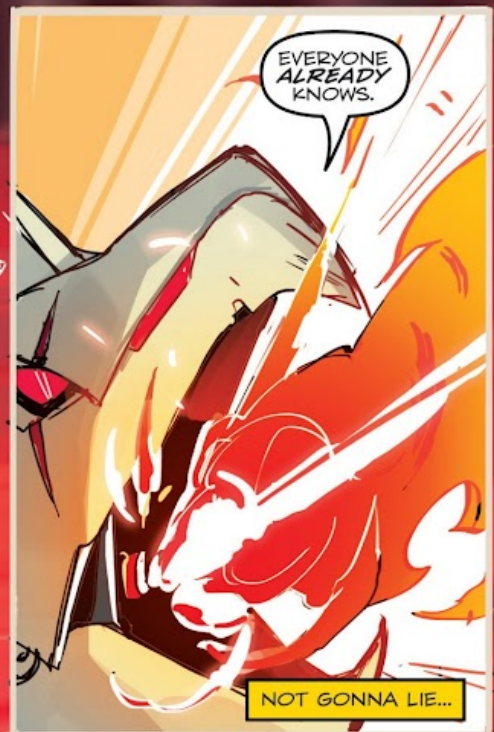
—ABOUT THAT?



THIS IS CYBERTRON, SHINY.

HE CAN FLY?!!

NO ONE SAID HE COULD FLY!



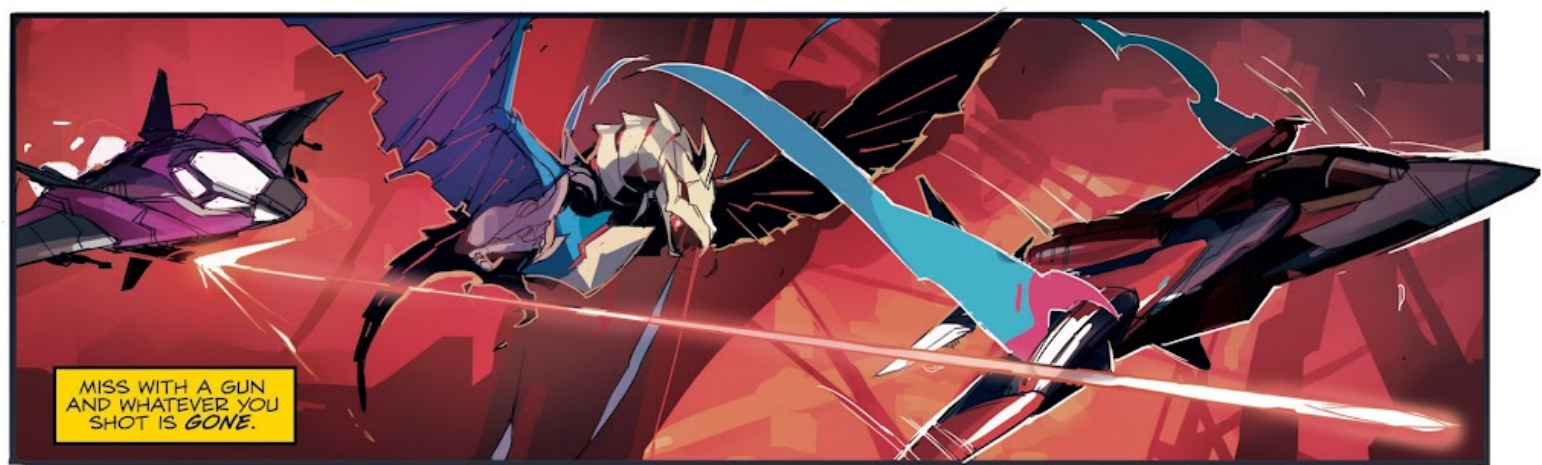
EVERYONE ALREADY KNOWS.

NOT GONNA LIE...





WE DON'T GENERALLY USE RANGED WEAPONS ON *CAMINUS*. THEY'RE DEEMED TOO WASTEFUL.



MISS WITH A GUN AND WHATEVER YOU SHOT IS *GONE*.



KEEP FILMING! COME ON!

NO OFFENSE, *CIRCUIT*. BUT GET YOUR HANDS OFF MY HEAD!



LONGTOOTH! HOLD THE SHOT!



THIS WAY!

CAMIENS GAVE UP ON GUNS...



...BUT THAT DIDN'T MAKE US HELPLESS.

ARGH!

TANKOR!
PULL
BACK!



COME ON,
COME ON,
COME ON.



IT MADE US CREATIVE.

TRUST
ME!

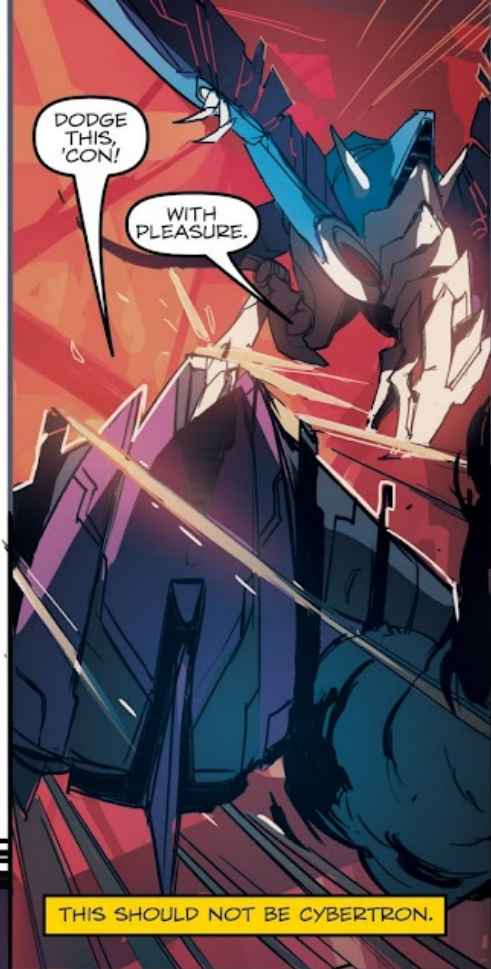
OH HHHKAY.



GOTTA
MOVE A LOT
FASTER THAN
THAT!

Cboom!

GOTTA
MOVE A LOT
FASTER THAN
THAT!



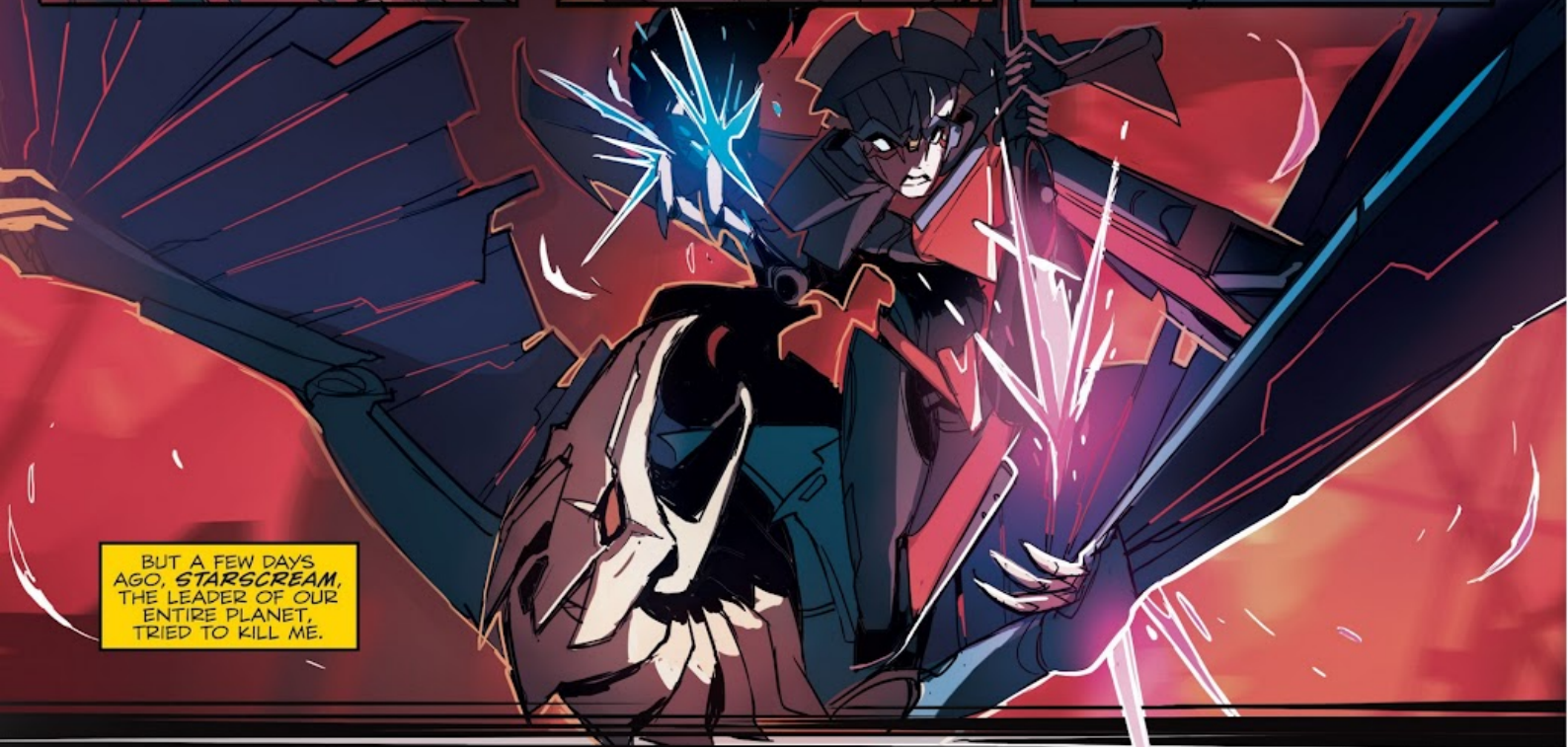
THIS SHOULD NOT BE CYBERTRON.



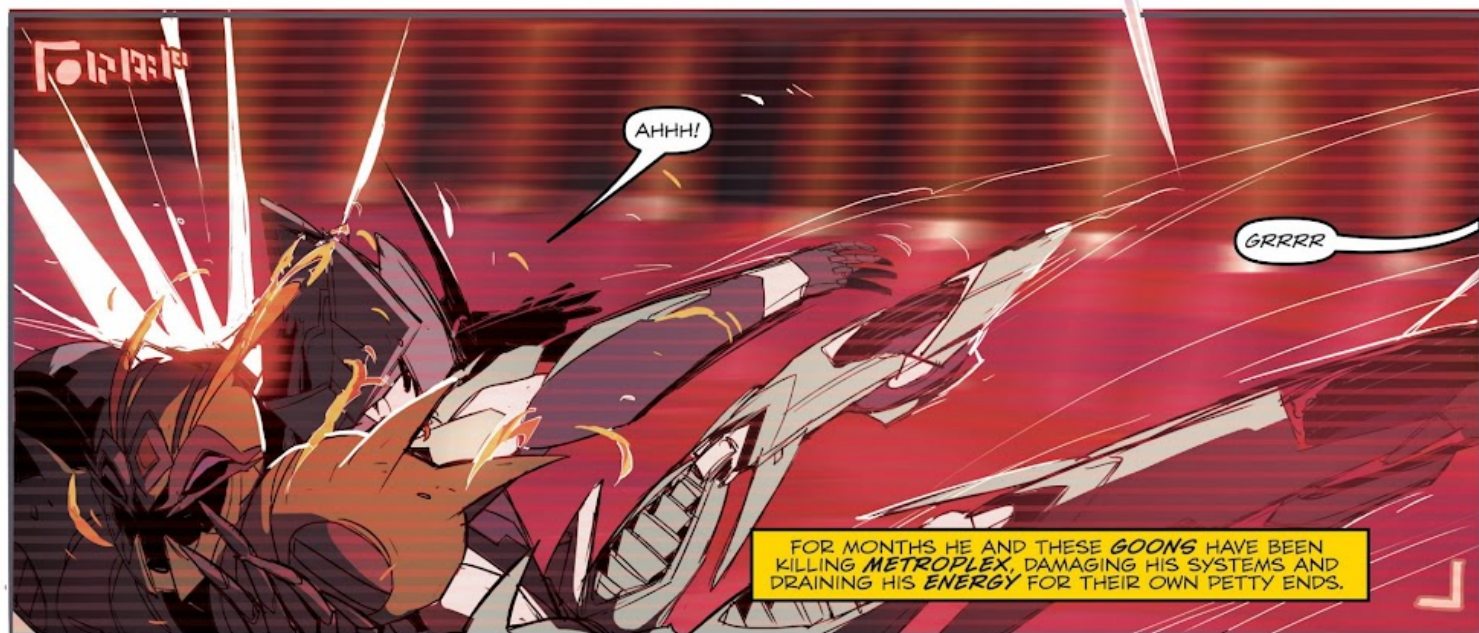
ENDLESS WAR AND PAIN.



IT SHOULDN'T BE *ME* EITHER.



BUT A FEW DAYS AGO, *STARScream*, THE LEADER OF OUR ENTIRE PLANET, TRIED TO KILL ME.



FOR MONTHS HE AND THESE *GOONS* HAVE BEEN KILLING *METROPLEX*, DAMAGING HIS SYSTEMS AND DRAINING HIS *ENERGY* FOR THEIR OWN PETTY ENDS.

AND THAT WILL NOT GO UNANSWERED.

NO MATTER THE COST.

YOU WON'T
MAKE IT,
AUTOBOT.

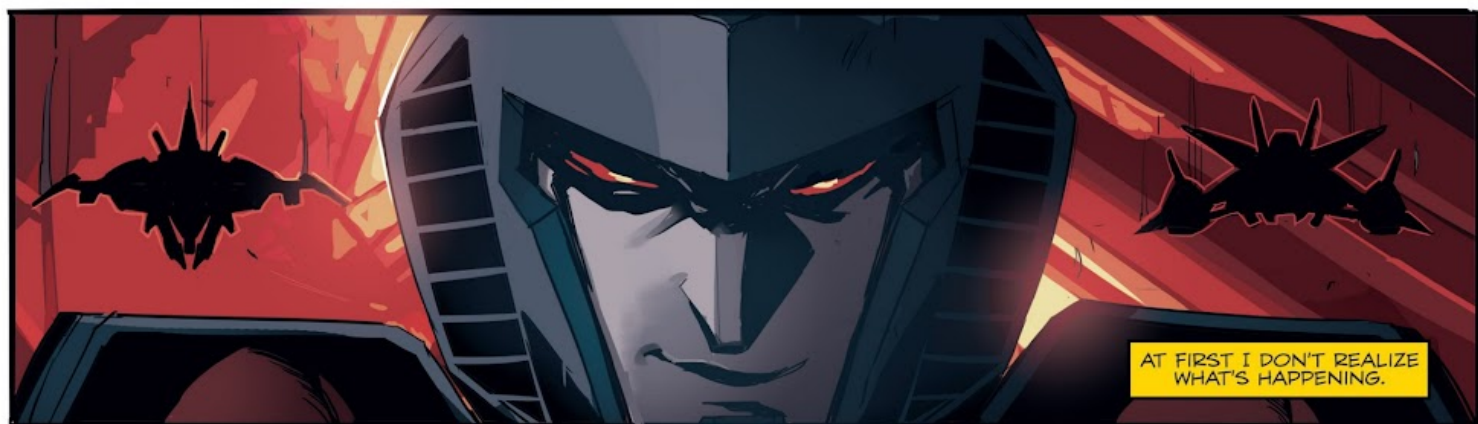
YOU'RE
PROBABLY
RIGHT.

WINDBLADE!

END OF
THE LINE,
AUTOBOTS.

MAYBE...

CLK!









YOU SHOULD HAVE LET ME USE THE BAR MORE, BLURR. IT REALLY COULD'VE BEEN A FOCAL POINT OF THE COMMUNITY. NOW IT'LL BE JUST ANOTHER HOLE IN THE GROUND.

AND YOU DEFINITELY SHOULDN'T HAVE BET ON SOME **NEWCOMER** TO OUTSMART ME.

I LEARNED HOW EASILY I PLAYED INTO HIS HANDS.

BUT... I'VE GOT EVERYTHING ON FILM. I CAN **PROVE** WE WEREN'T THE ONES DAMAGING METROPLEX.



EVEN **WAZZPINATOR** NOT DUMB ENOUGH TO SAY THAT.



I LEARNED HOW FOOLISH I WAS TO THINK I'D OUTSMARTED HIM.

NO, NO. LET'S MAKE THIS A **TEACHABLE MOMENT**.

THE FOOTAGE ONLY EXISTS IN YOUR HEAD...



...SO IT ONLY THREATENS ME AS LONG AS THAT **HEAD** STAYS ON ITS **SHOULDERS**.

GOT IT?

HUGGH-HUHHH.



I'M NOT HERE TO START ANOTHER WAR, BUT HAVING SOME **ALIEN** CONTROL THE FATE OF CYBERTRON IS NOT SOMETHING I INTEND TO TOLERATE ANY LONGER.

SIDE **WITH** ME AND YOU'RE FREE TO CONTINUE TO ENJOY OUR HARD-WON PEACE.

SIDE **AGAINST** ME, AND YOU SHOULD ASK YOURSELF—HONESTLY—HOW MANY OF YOUR "**BROTHERS**" WILL FOLLOW?



HOW MANY DO YOU THINK WILL **HANG TOGETHER** FOR AN ALIEN'S LIFE...

CYBERTRON IS **TIRED.**

AND **DIVIDED.**

...AGAINST INCARCERATION...

AND SO STARVED FOR **PEACE** MANY DON'T EVEN LOOK AT THE **COST** ANYMORE.

...ON PAIN OF DEATH?



AFTER ALL, IT ONLY TAKES ONE, MAYBE TWO OF YOU, TO SAVE YOUR OWN SKIN AND THE REST ARE COMPLETELY **DISCREDITED.**



IT'S FUNNY HOW THAT KIND OF THING WORKS.

WE'RE NOT **TURNING** ON EACH OTHER, STARScream.

NO ONE'S TURNING ON EACH OTHER.

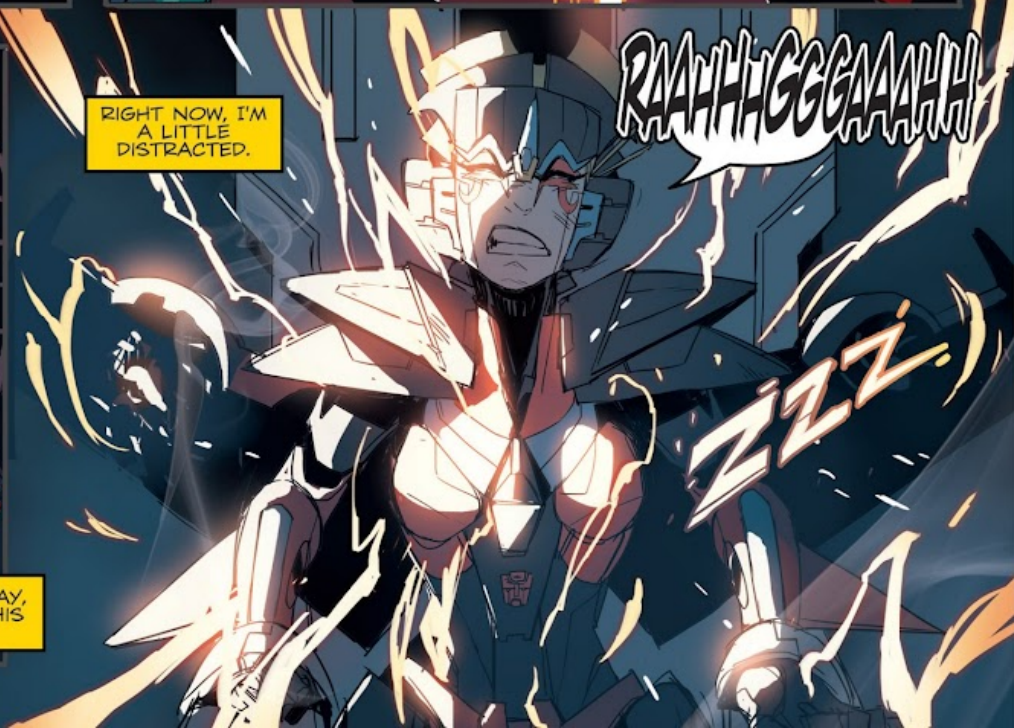
AND YET, LIKE ME, THEY AREN'T DONE **FIGHTING** YET.



NOW, WHERE IS **WINDBLADE**?

SOMEPLACE VERY **UNSAFE.**

BUT AS I SAY, I HEARD THIS **LATER.**



RIGHT NOW, I'M A LITTLE **DISTRACTED.**

RAHHHGGGAAAHHH!

ZZZ



WHERE IS CHROMIA?

HNNNGG...

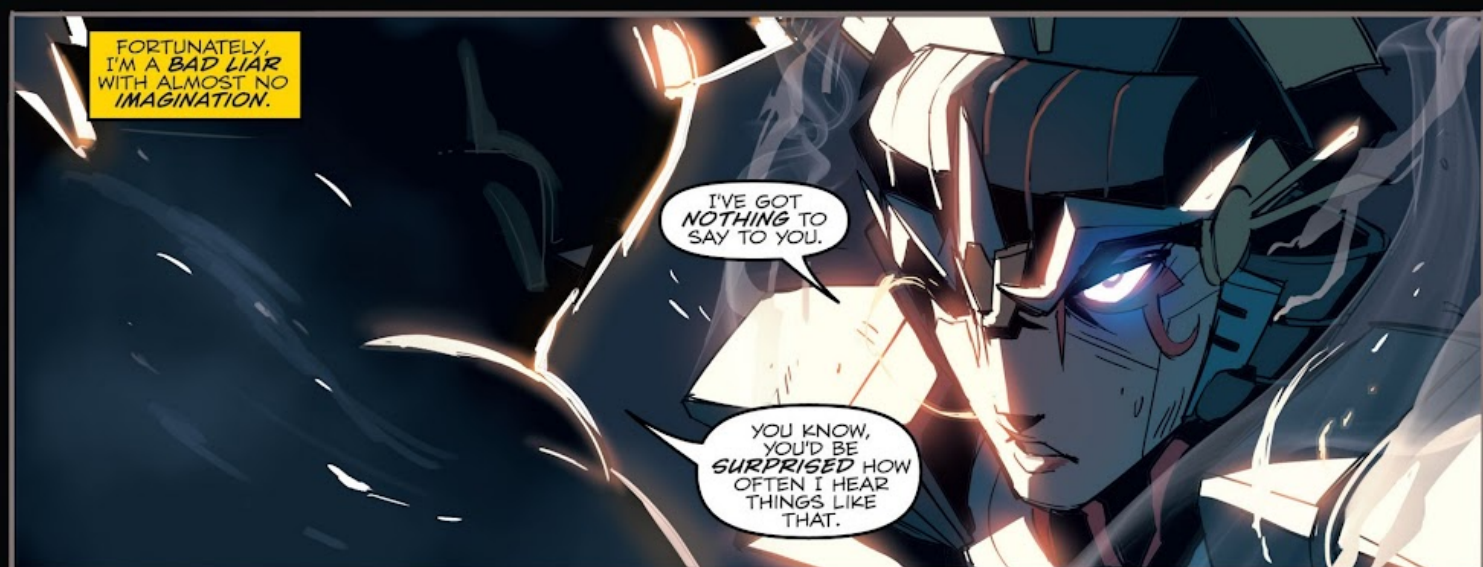
I MUST ADMIT... THIS ISN'T MY **PROUDEST** MOMENT.



WHY ARE YOU **HERE**? WHAT'S YOUR **REAL** MISSION?

RHH!

I'D TELL HIM PRETTY MUCH **ANYTHING** TO MAKE IT STOP.



FORTUNATELY, I'M A **BAD LIAR** WITH ALMOST NO **IMAGINATION**.

I'VE GOT **NOTHING** TO SAY TO YOU.

YOU KNOW, YOU'D BE **SURPRISED** HOW OFTEN I HEAR THINGS LIKE THAT.



I AM NOT GONNA LET YOU RUIN THIS, ALIEN.

I **REALLY** HOPE IT MAKES ME SEEM **STOIC** RIGHT NOW.



WE SURVIVED THE **WAR** AND WE CAN SURVIVE YOU.

YOU **REALLY** ARE CRAZY.

NO, HE'S JUST **TALKATIVE**.



WHICH IS
ALMOST JUST
AS BAD.

AND PROBABLY
MEANS THAT HE
DIDN'T FIND *ANY* OF
THE INFORMATION I
ASKED HIM TO.

IT'S JUST
A MATTER
OF TI—

SHUT UP,
RATTRAP.



EXCUSES
DON'T REPAIR
FAILURE. THEY JUST
MAKE IT MORE
ANNOYING.

BOSS, SHOULD
YOU REALLY
BE—?

OH, I DON'T
THINK SHE'S
GOING TO BE
MUCH *TROUBLE*.
ARE YOU?

MY AGENDA ISN'T *SECRET*.



RAAAAHHH!!

URGH!

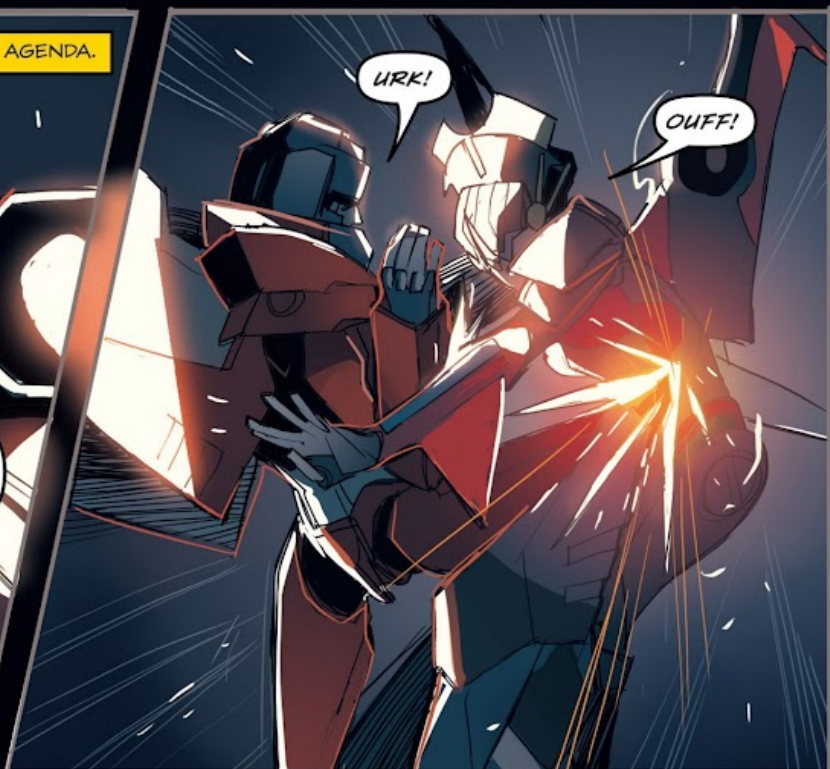
ITEM 1—KILL STARScream.



END OF AGENDA.

YOU KNOW
STRANGLING ME
WON'T DO MUCH.
CYBERTRONIANS
—URK—DON'T
BREATHE.

CAMIENS
DON'T, EITHER.
I'M GONNA RIP
YOUR *HEAD*
CLEAN OFF!



URK!

OUFF!







NOT THAT I
HAVE LONG
TO THINK.

HAA!

CHNK!

CHROMIA IS NOTHING IF
NOT A 'BOT OF ACTION.

CLEAR THE
GUARDS! DON'T
KILL 'EM UNLESS
YOU HAVE TO!

RAAHH!

I DO *NOT* KNOW
THE CODES FOR THIS
FACILITY AND ANYONE WHO
SUGGESTS OTHERWISE WILL
HAVE A PROBLEM.

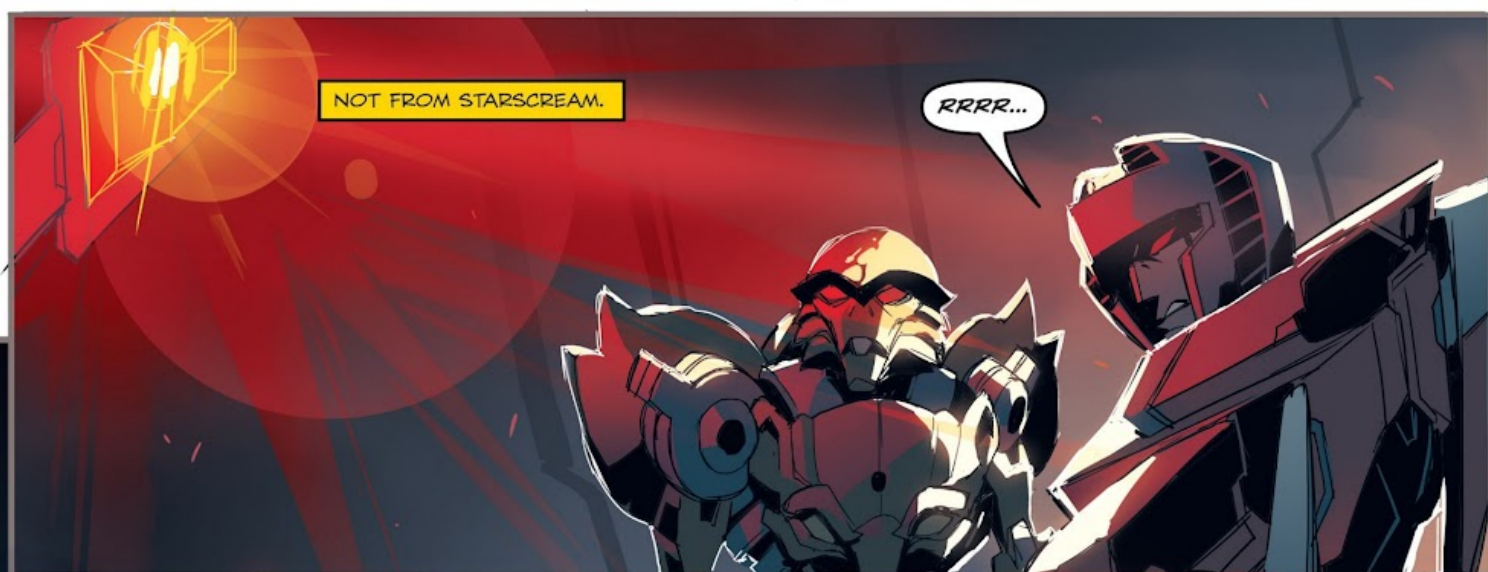
I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN
THEY WOULD COME.

GOT
IT?

BLAH,
BLAH, BLAH.
GET OUTTA
MY WAY.
SWINDLE.

DINOBOTS.
NO MANNERS.

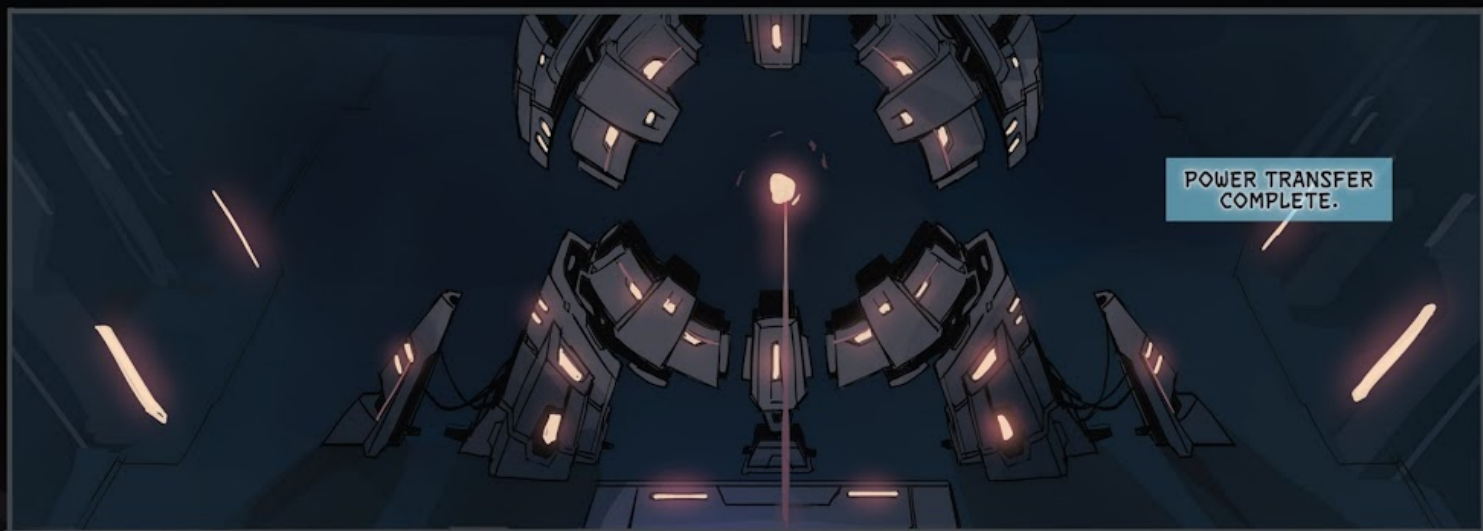
AND YET, I CAN'T SHAKE THE
FEELING THAT WE'RE IN MORE
DANGER *NOW* THAN EVER BEFORE.







SOMEONE IS PULLING POWER FROM METROPLEX. THE ONLY QUESTION LEFT...



TRANSFORMERS WINDBLADE

Welcome to the first-ever *Windblade* letters column! The response has been phenomenal! Thanks for all of your letters of comment—all universally positive, which I gotta say is a rarity in this line of work. Below is a sampling—and sorry if we had to trim a little text for space, we wanted to get as many letters in as we could, and this is only a fraction of what we received!

Anyway—writer Mairghread Scott demanded to answer your letters personally, so let me get out of the way! —John the editor

Hello!

I just wanted to let you know how much I loved *Windblade* #1. Great story with political intrigue that felt real; I was really left with a feeling of how tenuous *Windblade*'s position on Cybertron is and just how intimidating Starscream would be to a newcomer. *Windblade* and Chromia are both lovely and badass and I can't wait to see how they continue to develop.

The art is absolutely stunning—IDW Transformers comics always look good, but Sarah Stone's art is just something else. So vibrant and fluid yet still mechanical. The bombing scene gave me chills. I really hope it becomes an ongoing comic, if this standard is maintained it truly deserves it.

Daniel Best
Australia

Thank you. We really tried to make Starscream a master of manipulation, able to get the right reaction (sympathy, fear, etc.) from anyone and Sarah did a great job of giving him a range of emotions depending on who he thinks might be listening. We'll try to keep him scary, and our ladies tough, as the issues go on.

Dear IDW,

The first issue of *Windblade* was absolutely wonderful; I loved it so much. The story and art were both amazing and I wanted to say as a female Transformers fan, it is just so amazingly heartening to see a fembot get her own mini-series—especially one that isn't Arcee.

I would love so much if it became an ongoing monthly comic, I hope it sells enough to justify it.

Thank you so much,
Drusilla Louise

Thanks, Drusilla! From your lips to Primus' ears.

Hi,

My name is Daniel and I'm a longtime Transformers fan. I grew up with G1 and have never stopped loving Transformers. When I saw *Windblade* in *Dark Cybertron*, I was, like, "wow"!

I love the first issue of *Transformers: Windblade* and hope she continues to be a part of the Transformers universe! Keep up the great work, IDW and Mairghread.

Daniel Collins

Will do!

Dear *Windblade* production team,

I read *Windblade* and really enjoyed the writing and art. My fav bits are the little bits of fan service, like that someone mistook *Windblade*'s name as *Wingblade*. I look forward to see what happens next.

Regards,
Robert Shum

Hi Robert, thanks for writing. Yeah, I do tend to troll the fans a little. I'm looking for a t-shirt now that says "Does your blade even wind, Bro?"

Dear IDW,

I wouldn't consider myself an old Transformers fan, but not exactly a new one either. I've just jumped back into Transformers in time for the *Dark Cybertron* saga.

Anyways, *Windblade* (the comic) was absolutely beautiful both in artwork and story, which meshed together perfectly. I loved reading *Windblade*'s (the bot) thoughts. It really fleshed her out. Without rambling on and on, it was a great comic and I look forward to the upcoming ones. Great job.

'Til all are one,

Thomas L.

P.S. Congratulations on 15 years of comics! I look forward to the many years to come.

Mairghread Caption: Hmmm...Thomas likes the captions. Note to self: more captions. Also, think we're out of milk.

To Mairghread Scott,

Hi, I'm Wout Jut. I don't comment that often on the IDW forum, but now I really had to.

Yesterday I got the chance to go to my comic shop, just to see if I could get my hands on new TPBs, but I knew *Windblade* was coming out... and when I saw the comic, I couldn't resist my urge to read it (I don't buy comics, only TPBs and hardcovers).

Oh, my. I *so* totally love it and just couldn't stop reading. Luckily the comic salesman saw I already took some books to buy, because really reading complete issues in the store... well, he does not like that. (Buy it or stop reading!!!)

So, okay... I bought it.

I *so* totally love what you created with *Windblade*. Not only because she's a fem-bot, which I'm also very glad with, but also because she grew up on a very different world. Cybertron is an alien world for her; and finally Transformers is going to be more female-male culture. I guess that the world, Caminus, has a lot of fem-bots. For you, as a writer, you have a complete new world to write about. I love to see a lot more of this total new world.

The dialogue is great and it's very interesting to see old characters like Tankor in the comic. I loved the bar scene, but for me the best part was the dream scene. All her expectations about Cybertron are shattered. All her dreams just... gone.

Looking into your name (sorry, didn't know you) I see you already wrote several episodes of TF Prime. How cool is that!!

I'm a big fan of the *Shattered Glass* stories [from Fun Pub, the Transformers fan club]. Because I love to write, I started to make one-page stories, and that became a somewhat ambitious project. I hope that IDW will do something with *Shattered Glass* one day, but I'm already very glad that they turned Megatron into a good 'Bot.

I greet you and I hope you can write stories about *Windblade* for a very, very long time.

Cheers,

Wout Jut
(a new fan of you)

Hi, Wout. Glad to hear you turned your passion for reading into a passion for writing. I can't say what's next for the IDW-verse, but if you keep working hard, maybe someday you can.

Thanks to everyone who wrote in! Also, thank you to everyone online for the huge outpouring of support. Remember, fans made *Windblade*, and now fans have made her successful as well. Stay tuned for the final issue... to see who survives! <evil laugh>

SEND US YOUR LETTERS: Share your thoughts on all things *WINDBLADE*-related by writing to: TRANSFORMERS: WINDBLADE, C/O IDW PUBLISHING, 5080 SANTE FE ST., SAN DIEGO, CA 92109; emailing letters@idwpublishing.com; or visiting the Transformers forum at <http://forum.idwpublishing.com/>. Mark all letters "Okay to print"!

DAWN *OF THE* AUTOBOTS

IDW®

#4

SCOTT
STONE

THE TRANS 

FORMERS

WINDBLADE



DAWN OF THE AUTOBOTS

WINDBLADE #4

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Art by:

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Letters by:

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Editorial Assistance:

REBECCA HUARD

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JOHN BARBER

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PREVIOUSLY

AFTER A DESPERATE BATTLE FOR THE FATE OF THE UNIVERSE, THE GIANT TITAN **METROPLEX** CONVERTED TO CITY-MODE AND OFFERED REFUGE TO ALL CYBERTRONIANS.

BUT METROPLEX IS WEAK FROM INJURIES—AND ONLY ABLE TO COMMUNICATE WITH THE NEW ARRIVAL **WINDBLADE**, A "CITY SPEAKER" OF CYBERTRONIAN DESCENT.

AFTER AN EXPLOSION KILLS SEVERAL CYBERTRONIANS, **WINDBLADE** UNCOVERS A PLOT BY CYBERTRON'S LEADER, **STARScream**... A PLOT THAT MIGHT DEVASTATE THE LIVING CITY.

I'VE GOT NOTHING TO SAY TO YOU.

YOU KNOW, YOU'D BE SURPRISED HOW OFTEN I HEAR THINGS LIKE THAT.

CONFRONTING HIM, **WINDBLADE** AND HER FRIENDS ARE CAPTURED...

MOVE!
MOVE! MAIN ENTRANCE IS DEAD AHEAD.

CHROMIA LAUNCHES A DARING JAILBREAK...

...BUT **METROPLEX**'S SPACEBRIDGE ACTIVATES. WHAT IS THE **TITAN**'S DESTINATION?

AND WHO IS BEHIND THE DESTRUCTION?

THE CAST



WINDBLADE

CitySpeaker for Metroplex;
not from Cybertron.



CHROMIA

Bodyguard;
NOT FROM CYBERTRON.



STARSCREAM

Ruler of Cybertron;
having a bad day.



BLURR

Bartender at Maccadam's;
mixer of drinks.



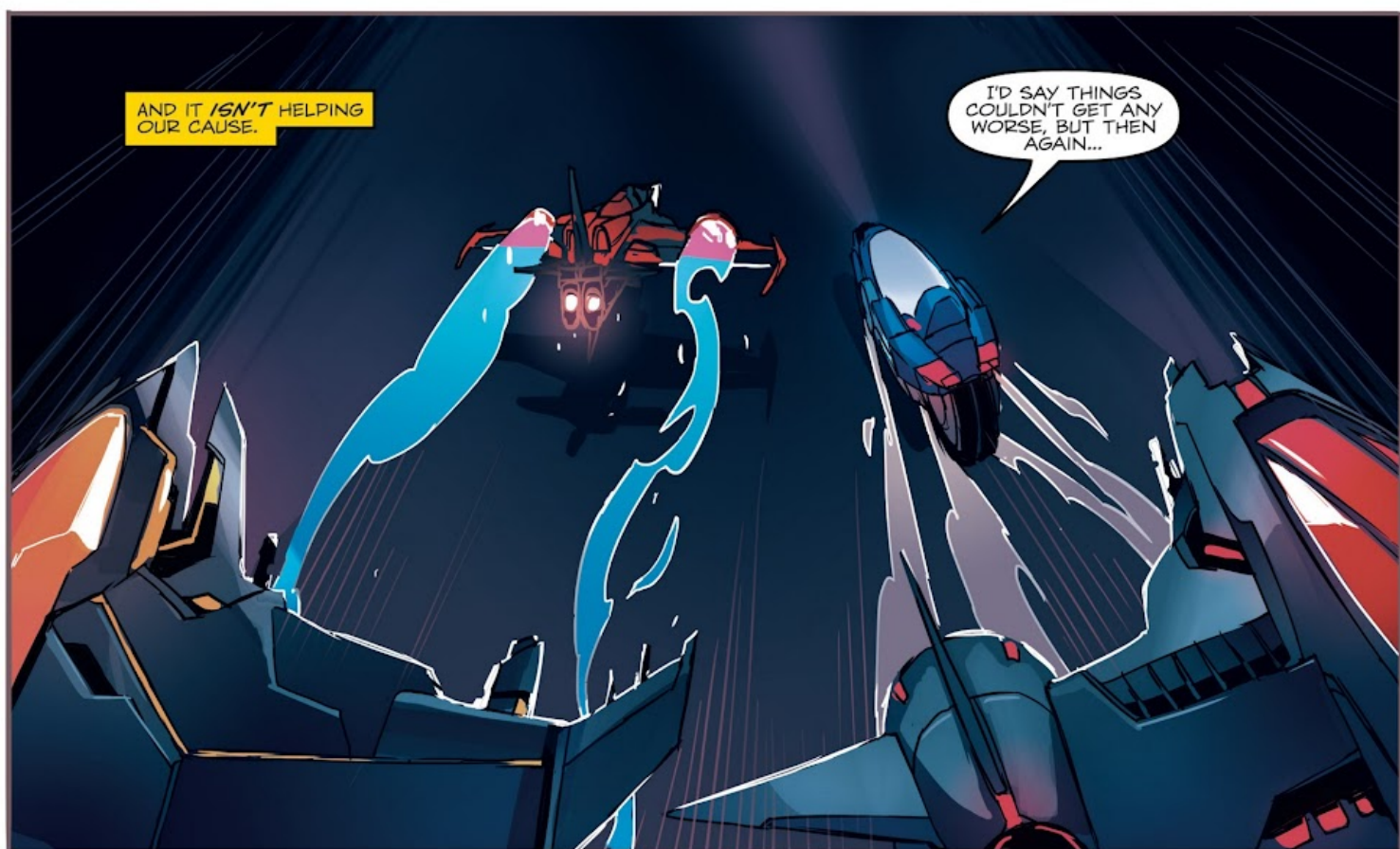
SLUG

Disgruntled Dinobot, drinker of drinks.



METROPLEX

Living city, just barely still alive.



"...AT LEAST *SLUG* AND *BLURR* ARE DEALING WITH STARScream."

SQUIRM ALL YAH LIKE... YOU'RE ALL OUTTA OPTIONS.

REALLY SLUG?

NOT EVEN *THIS* ONE?

CYBERTRON WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A *GRAND* AND *GLORIOUS* EMPIRE.

A PLACE OF *PEACE* AND *PROSPERITY*.

THEY WERE SUPPOSED TO HELP *US*.

KRA-KOAM!



WE HAVE TO SHAKE THEM.

YOU SURE YOU DON'T MEAN "KILL"? I WOULD'VE GONE WITH "KILL."

NO, CHROMIA. THEY'RE *NOT* THE ENEMY.

ZZT!

ZZT!



YOU WANNA TELL *THEM* THAT?

I WAS SUPPOSED TO HELP US.



'CAUSE I DON'T KNOW—

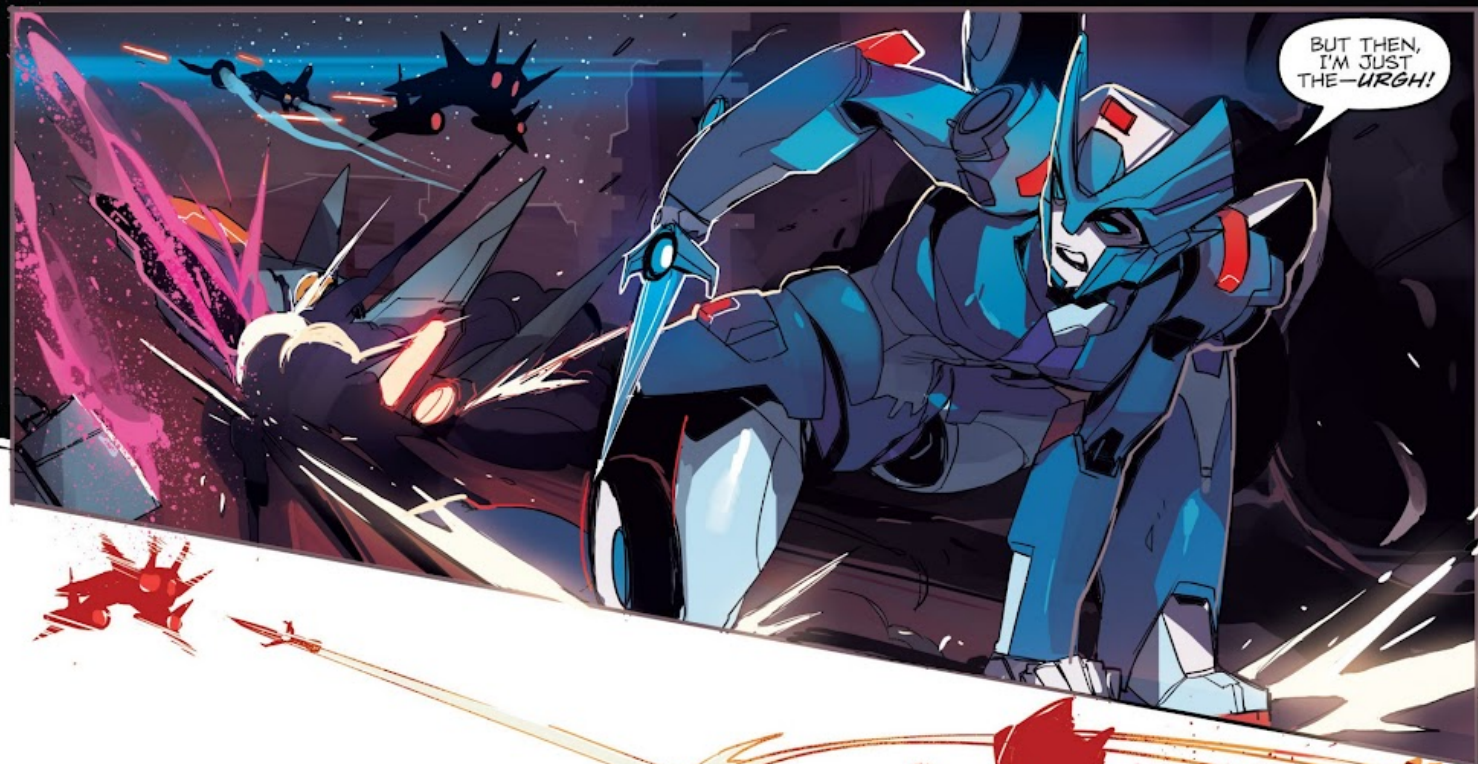
URGH!

—IF YOU'RE ACCURATELY—



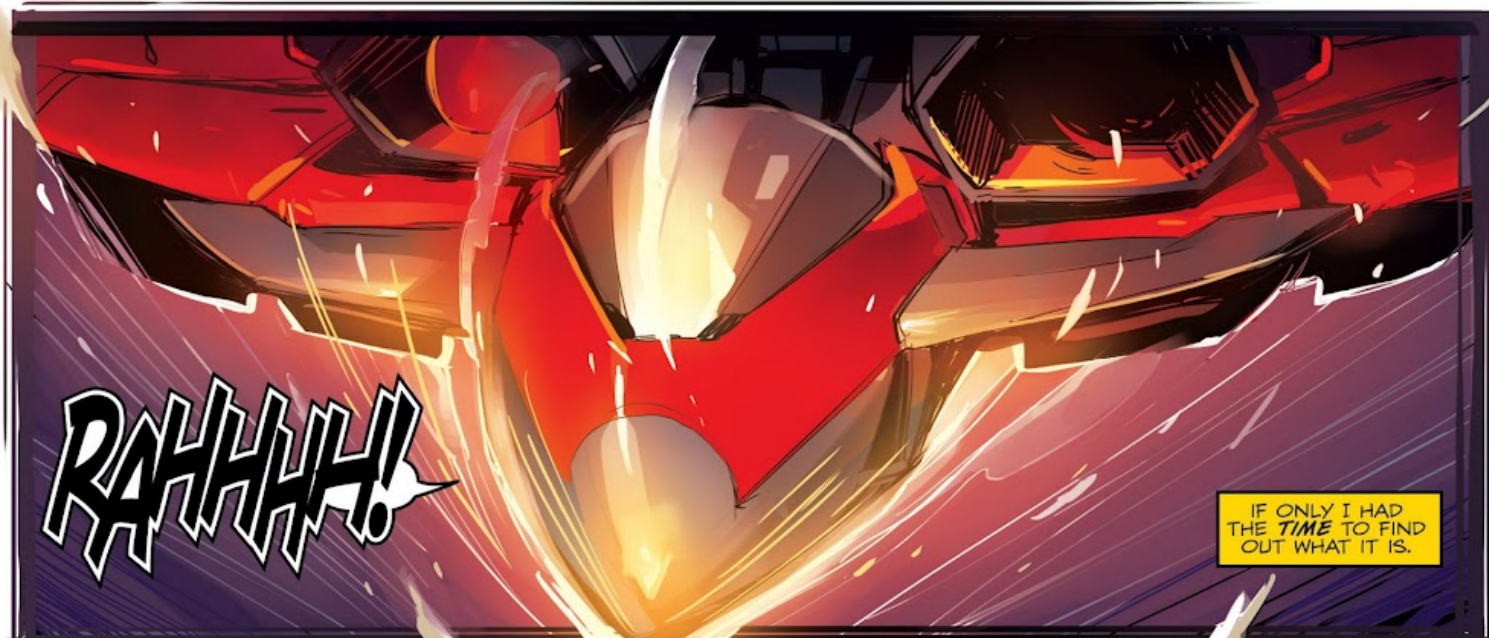
—ASSESSING THE SITUATION!

CRASH!



—BODYGUARD!







PULL UP
METROPLEX'S
SECURITY
FUNCTIONS.

HE'S GOTTA
HAVE SOMETHING
TO PROTECT HIS
OWN BRAIN; IT CAN
PROTECT *US*!

I NEED
TIME.



WE DON'T
HAVE TIME...

...YOU HAVE
TO *MERGE*
WITH HIM.

SHE'S RIGHT.



MERGE?
NO. I CAN'T
DO IT.

I *CAN*. IT'S
JUST...

YOU'LL HAVE
INSTANT ACCESS.
YOU'LL BE ABLE
TO REACH
EVERYTHING.

IF IT
DOESN'T KILL
ME FIRST!

...THAT.

YOU'RE
GONNA DIE
ANYWAY ONCE
STARSCREAM
COMES THROUGH
THAT DOOR. AT
LEAST DIE
FIGHTING!



THE BRAIN OF A
TITAN IS IMMENSE.
NEARLY *INFINITE*.

STRUCTURAL
STABILITY:
3% DROP.

WIND-VOICE
FRIGHTENED?

YES.
METROPLEX, I
NEED YOU TO
LISTEN. I—

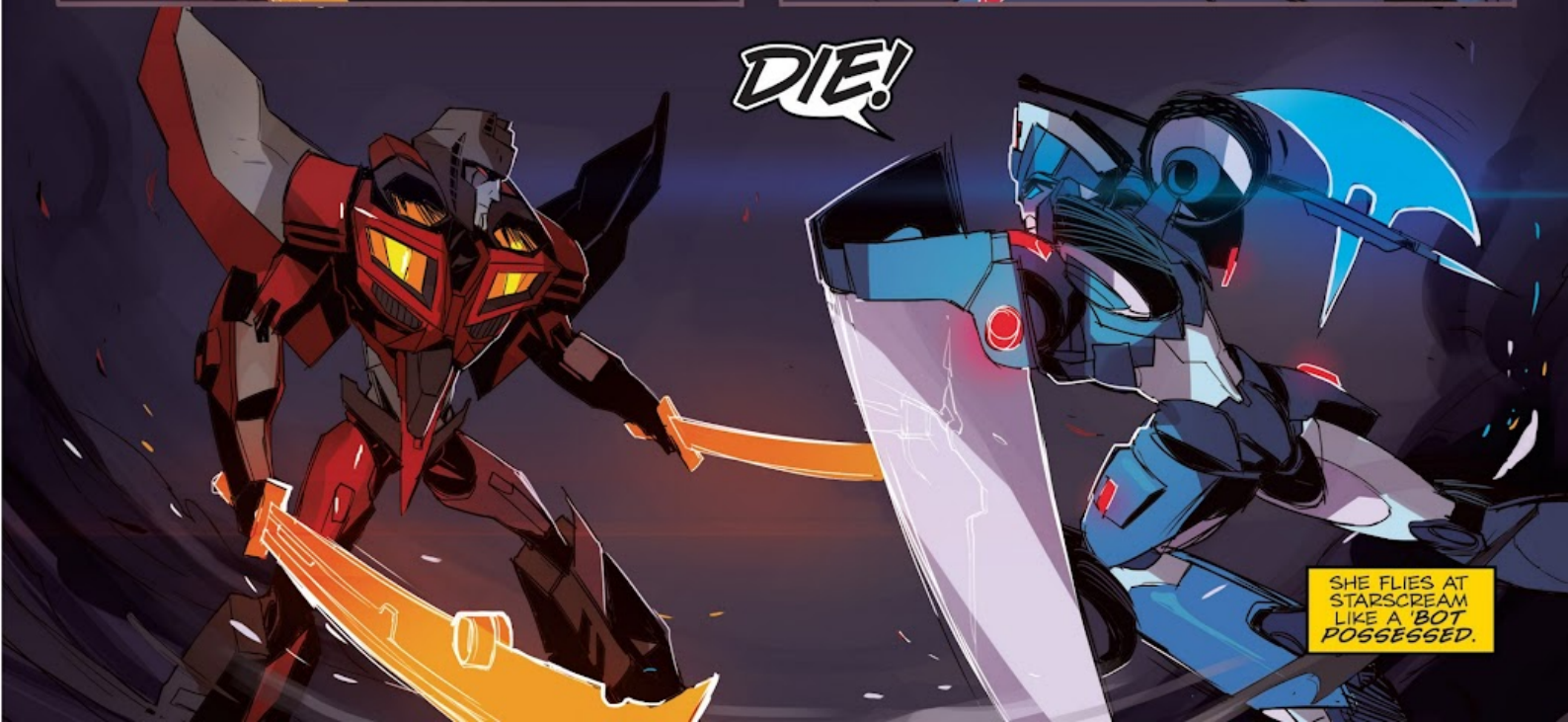
LOCATION NOT
FOUND. INPUT
COORDINATES...

POWER OUTAGE,
SECTOR 1, 2, B...

THE BRAIN OF
A CITYSPEAKER
IS *NOT*.



THAT'S WHY MERGING
IS ALWAYS A LAST
RESORT; *ALWAYS*.





ALL THE *ANGER* OF
THIS PLACE FLOWING
OUT OF HER.

CHROMIA IS ALWAYS
AT HOME IN BATTLE.



WINDBLADE!
WE'RE OUT
OF TIME!



AAH!

SHE SAYS IT'S
SIMPLE, CLEAN.



YOU VERSUS WHOEVER
IS TRYING TO KILL YOU.



PLEASE,
PLEASE,
PLEASE...



THE ONLY
PROBLEM IS...



...I DON'T WANT
TO KILL ANYONE.



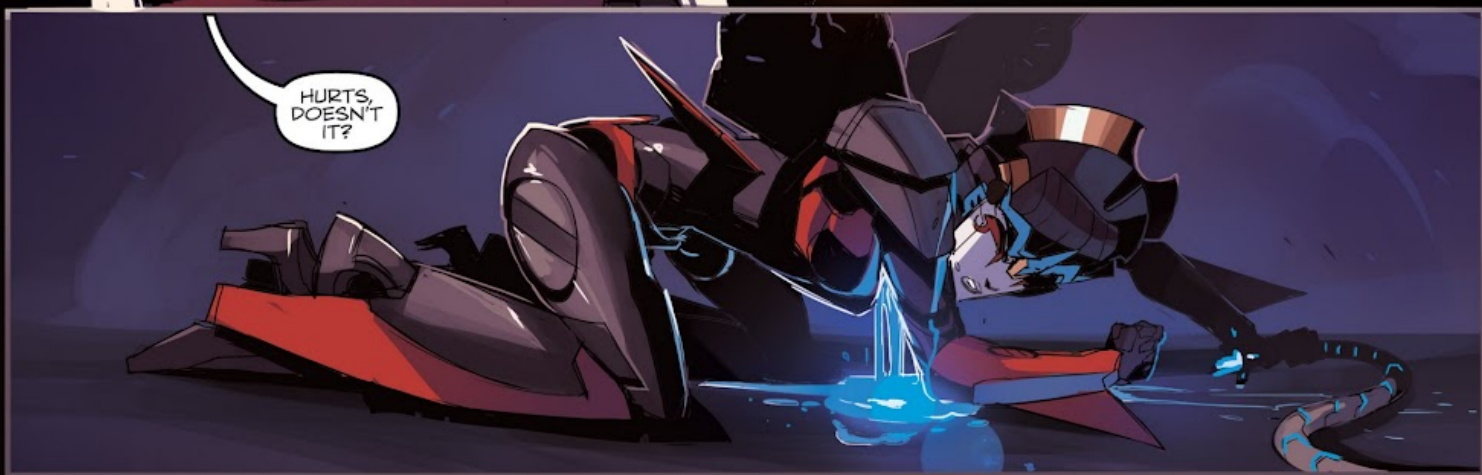
AND I'M RAPIDLY BECOMING
THE ONLY ONE WHO *DOESN'T*.

YOU CAN
ALWAYS TELL
WHEN SOMEONE'S
NEVER BEEN IN AN
ACTUAL WAR—



—NO
CREATIVITY.

NO!





IT HAPPENS IN AN INSTANT.



I AM NO LONGER JUST WINDBLADE.



AAARRR!

WE ARE WINDBLADE.



AS WE ARE ALSO METROPLEX.

CHK



URGH

CHNK



WE ARE ONE.



OUR TOWERS
SHAKE.

OUR POWER
SURGES.

OUR...
SPACEBRIDGE?

IT'S ONLINE, BARELY, AND
ALMOST KILLING US WITH
THE EFFORT IT REQUIRES.

ALL TO FEED A
SINGLE FUNCTION.

CRACKED AND CRUMBLING
WE STRUGGLE AGAINST
THE VOID ITSELF,
CLAWING TO BREAK FREE.

WE WERE SEARCHING
FOR SOMETHING... WE
TRY TO REMEMBER...



THE WANDERERS. WE WERE
SEARCHING FOR ONE OF
THE *COLONY TITANS*.

BUT THEY'RE SO MUCH
MORE THAN TITANS NOW.



THEIR SPARKS ARE
ECHOED AND *ETCHED*
ON EACH OF THE
SPARKS THEY CARRIED.



THEIR BEACONS RESONATE
WITH OUR OWN, SHINING
STARS IN THE DARKNESS.

ALL BUT *ONE*.

OUR CLOSEST
FRIEND. *CAMINUS*.





you...
you did
it.



YOU BROUGHT
THE SPACEBRIDGE
ONLINE.

YOU PLANTED
THE **BOMB** IN
ACROLIGHT.

YOU KILLED
THREE
PEOPLE.

I HAD
TO.



YOU
WOULDN'T
LEAVE, NOT
UNLESS THEY
DROVE US
OUT.

NO...



I COULDN'T
JUST SIT
THERE AND
WAIT FOR YOU
TO DIE, NOT
FOR **THEM**.

IT'S MY
JOB TO GET
YOU HOME IN
ONE PIECE.
REMEMBER?



SO HELP
METROPLEX
FIND CAMINUS.
HELP HIM FIND
HOME.

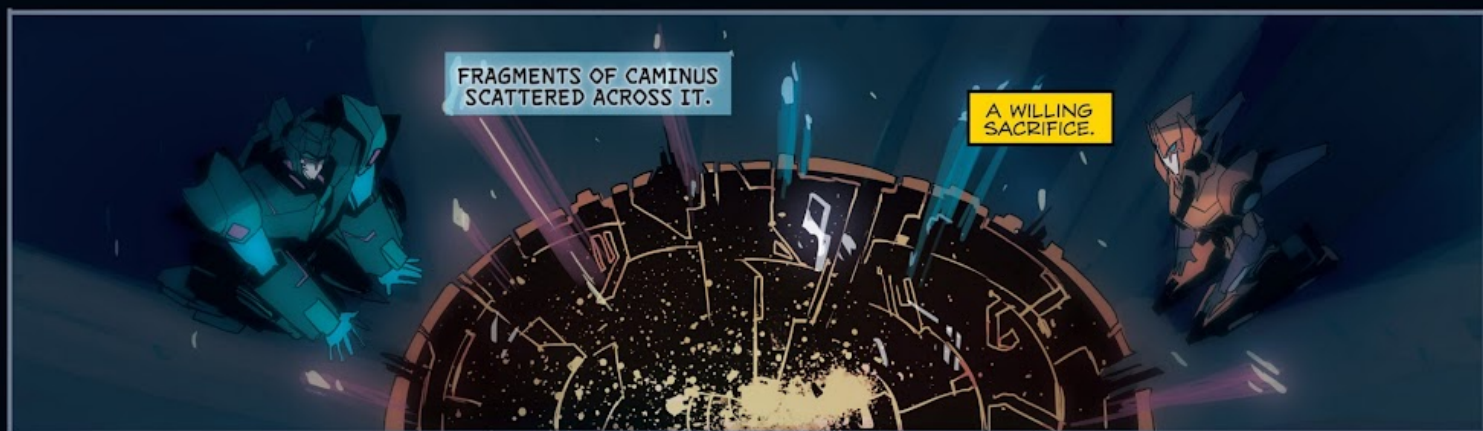


YOU **FOOL!**
METROPLEX'S
INTEGRATED
WITH **IACON!**

JUMPING NOW
WILL KILL **EVERYONE**
NOT COMPLETELY
INSIDE OF HIM!

IT'S HARD TO
HEAR THEM.

OUR MIND HAS
ALREADY STARTED
TO DRIFT...





BUT, WHAT
CHOICE IS MINE?

NNNN—NO!



WIND-VOICE
WILL... WIND-PLEX
CHO-BIT
FLUCKEVEN—

HE'S NEVER
COMING BACK.

WE'RE NEVER
GOING BACK.

PLEASE, LET
ME GO BACK.

AND THE STARS GREW
DISTANT AND LONELY
IN THEIR ORBITS.

IT HURTS.

WE SAW BUT COULD
NOT TOUCH THEIR
WANDERING GRACE.



I—I...

I DON'T
KNOW WHAT
TO CHOOSE.

WINDBLADE?
LISTEN TO ME.
YOU HAVE TO
'BRIDGE US!

DON'T!





THAT'S A CHOICE
ALL IN ITSELF.



WINDBLADE...?

LOOKS LIKE
YOU CHOSE THE
WRONG SIDE,
CHROMIA.

WHAT DO I KEEP
TELLING YOU,
STARSCREAM?



THERE
ARE NO
SIDES.



OUR
RESOURCES ARE
STRETCHED TO THE
BREAKING POINT.
CAMINUS WON'T
SURVIVE THE NEXT
HUNDRED YEARS
WITHOUT HELP.

BUT
CYBERTRON
WON'T,
EITHER.

TO STAND, NOT
WITH CAMINUS,
OR METROPLEX,
BUT WITH **BOTH**.



YOU STOPPED FIGHTING
THE WAR, STARSCREAM.
BUT IT DOESN'T MEAN
YOU TRULY KNOW
PEACE.

AUTOBOTS,
DECEPTICON,
NAILS, CAMIENS,
CYBERTRONIANS. AS
FAST AS YOU BLUR
THE LINES BETWEEN
"US" AND "THEM,"
YOU ETCH NEW
ONES.



BUT
YOU'RE NOT
ALONE.

CAMINUS
WASN'T THE ONLY
COLONY ABOARD A
TITAN. THERE WERE
OTHERS, AND THE
DESCENDANTS OF
THOSE COLONIES
ARE STILL OUT
THERE. ISOLATED.
WAITING.

FOR
YOU.



WINDBLADE,
YOU *CAN'T!*
HE—

"STARSCREAM
CARES FOR NOTHING
AND NO ONE BUT
HIMSELF." THAT'S
THE POINT.



OUR
ACTIONS—MY
ACTIONS—ARE
NOTHING SHORT
OF *SEDITION*. YOU
CAN REVEAL IT TO
THE PUBLIC AND
KILL ME...

...OR, YOU
CAN COVER IT
UP, KEEP IT TO
YOURSELF.

AND WHAT
DO I GET IN
RETURN?



WHEN
METROPLEX
IS STRONG
ENOUGH, HIS
SPACEBRIDGE
IS YOURS.

YOU'LL
REACH OUT TO
THOSE COLONIES
AND YOU'LL BRING
THEM *HOME*. OUR
SAVIOR, UNITING
ALL OF US.

TO SIDE WITH *ALL*
OF *CREATION*.

THAT'S A
CITYSPEAKER'S
TRUE CALLING.

REGARDLESS OF WHO
GETS CREDIT FOR IT.
OR HOW IT HAPPENS.



SO WHAT'DA SAY,
STARSCREAM?

YOU
IN?



IT'S ALMOST DAWN. I BETTER FIND *CIRCUIT*. EXPLAIN... WELL... *SOME* OF THE SITUATION.

GET HIM NOT TO REPORT WHAT HAPPENED LAST NIGHT. THEN GET SOMEONE TO WELD US BACK UP.

YOU TOOK THE BLAME FOR ME.



DID YOU KILL *IRONHIDE*?

NO, I—

THEN WE BETTER BRING *HIM* UP TO SPEED, TOO.



AND, CHROMIA, IF YOU WANT TO LEAVE, I'LL FIND YOU TRANSPORT. BUT UNTIL THEN, I NEED TO KNOW I CAN COUNT ON YOU.

NO MORE DEATHS.

ALWAYS. IT'S MY JOB, MY PRIVILEGE, TO PROTECT YOU... CITYSPEAKER.



I HOPE SOME DAY YOU'LL BELIEVE IN ME, TOO.

IT'S OUR CALLING, OUR CHOICE, TO DO GOOD.

MY NAME IS
WINDBLADE.

I AM A CHILD
OF THE TITAN
CAMINUS.

I AM THE CITY SPEAKER
FOR THE LAST CITY
ON *CYBERTRON*.

AND *BOTH*
ARE MY HOME.

I HAVE ONLY
BEGUN TO FIGHT.



TRANSFORMERS WINDBLADE

Hope you enjoyed the twists and turns in Windblade's first (go ahead and read into that statement, if you'd like!) solo adventure! Rest assured, the story of Windblade and Chromia (and Starscream and Metroplex) is far from ended, even as this tale comes to its shocking conclusion. In just over a month, we'll check in again with Windblade on Cybertron in the ongoing *Transformers: Robots in Disguise* as she meets an old new friend...

But now: on to your letters, and I'll let the fantastic Mairghread Scott take over!

—John the editor

I just finished reading the first *Windblade* comic and I'm in love with the art and writing. I especially love how expressive she is, and that there's some more lady bots other than Arcee in the current arcs. I'll definitely be buying these issues when they come out.

Laura O'Keefe

Yeah, although in addition to lady-bots, I'm still trying to figure out how to get Prime-verse's Knock Out into the mix. Hmmm...

I absolutely loved *Windblade* #1! I was a little apprehensive about her design at first (just a smidge), but eventually fell in love. And then previews came out; and I found the artist's blog; and I got swept into the hype and excitement! Windblade really is beautifully designed (and so are Chromia and Nautica!). Then the comic came out and I am *absolutely blown away*.

The comic is gorgeous; it's so stunning in print and I can't put it down! I hope it becomes #1 seller of the week, because Stone, Scott, and IDW all deserve it! And I hope Sarah can work on more projects with IDW in the future, because her art is so gorgeous (I've said this twice just in this email, I'm going to keep saying it).

I'm so excited for more Windblade, Chromia, and Nautica. I can't wait for more *Dawn of the Autobots*! I've never emailed or sent letters to a company like this, but I needed to say thank you!! Windblade and this comic has become incredibly important to me, so thank you Sarah, Mairghread, and IDW!!

Maria Guseman

No problem. For more Nautica, check out James Roberts and Alex Milne's *More Than Meets the Eye*. And don't forget Arcee cutting it up (literally) in John Barber and Andrew Griffith's *Robots In Disguise*.

Just picked up the first issue of *Transformers: Windblade*, and I have to say I was very impressed! I wasn't sure what to expect, but Mairghread Scott's writing and Sarah Stone's art have me sold. The storyline is intriguing, the characterizations are spot on (loved Slug's comment on the Dinobot-Demolisher), and the pacing felt just right. I'm excited to see where this one goes, and hope it lasts for more than four issues.

Brandt Gibson
Edgewood, WA

Hi, Brandt! Me too, but what I'm really hoping for is that someone comes up with a real Dinobot-Demolisher. I'm picturing something with ghost pepper-infused vodka.

Wow. Just, wow. Fantastic. I'll admit, I was skeptical of this mini-series at first, but I picked it up anyway. I didn't see much potential in Windblade, who as I understand is a character who was basically created by fans via a multiple choice poll, but son of a gun, she, and this book, are so much more than the sum of their parts.

Fantastic writing from Mairghread Scott fits in well with the "organic" (strange word to use for a book about machines, but I digress) tone of the other Transformers ongoing, but has a sense of emotion and sentimentality to it that makes it unique—and can we talk about Sarah Stone's art? Drop-dead gorgeous. There's nothing like it on the stands!

I'm a die-hard Transformers fanboy, so I was reluctant to have what seemed like a token female 'bot and her miniseries getting shoehorned in between *RiD* and *MTMTE*, but I was proven wrong. Much like its sister-series, *Windblade* isn't just a great Transformers book; it's a great book, period! I look forward to the rest of the miniseries, and hopefully more from this wonderful creative team of Scott and Stone!

Alan Desmarais

Scott and Stone are on the case!

I've been a Transformers fan for a long time, but it was only recently I started reading the IDW comics again, so I have a long way to catch up. Then, when I saw this issue at my local comic book store, I decided to get it... and after reading it I found that I really liked it.

I found Windblade very interesting and I enjoyed the subtle humor in the dialog between her and Chromia; and the whole bar scene was pretty good, too, especially when Windblade found out what kind of 'bot Starscream is. I also liked Sarah Stone's artwork—it felt to me like it was a cross between an anime and *Transformers Prime* (the show).

I think this was a great first issue and I am definitely going to read the next issues so good job to the whole team. Although I still plan to catch up on *Robots in Disguise* and *More Than Meets the Eye* in the meantime.

Gerardo Munoz

If you re-read the bar scene, you can watch Swindle finally pass out at the end of it. One of my favorite adds by Sarah.

This first issue of *Windblade* was stellar. I've been a fan of Transformers since I was a kid and reader of the IDW TF comics since *Last Stand of the Wreckers*; I've recognized the talent of the various creative teams throughout the years since then. Roche. Roberts. Milne. Griffith. Barber. Burcham. Perez. Cahill. Those are only a few names on the list, and the time has come to add Scott and Stone to it. Brilliant, fun, and quite frankly at parts, *adorable* work.

My brother has made sure to buy the series physically, while I'm buying it digitally and will buy the trade when it comes out. With luck, more will follow this initial four issue miniseries. Thank you, Mairghread Scott. Thank you, Sarah Stone. I'm sad that it took so long (thirty years!) for a Transformers comic to have a female writer *and* female artist simultaneously, but I'm grateful that you two are the first.

Rachel S.
Seattle, WA

Thanks, Rachel! We'll try not to mess it up by the end. ;) But remember, however you get the book you're supporting it and we deeply appreciate that. Unless you're stealing it, then we're not so happy.

Thanks again to everyone who wrote in! Also, thank you to everyone online for the huge outpouring of support. Let us know what you thought of the comic—and if you'd like to see more!

SEND US YOUR LETTERS: Share your thoughts on all things *WINDBLADE*-related by writing to:
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C/O IDW PUBLISHING,
5080 SANTE FE ST., SAN DIEGO, CA 92109;
or emailing letters@idwpublishing.com



Mark all letters "Okay to print"!